WTBN Training Circular 8-10B.3

Pistol Marksmanship

Weapons Training Battalion

(WTBN)

US Marine Corps
July 2017

This Training Circular supports the Marine Corps' pistol marksmanship program. It is automatically cancelled upon the official publication of MCRP 8-10B.3, Pistol Marksmanship.

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United States Marine Corps
Weapons Training Battalion
27211 Garand Road
Quantico, Virginia 22134

10 July 2017

FOREWORD

Marines are prepared to fight in "any clime and place", and we do so across the range of military operations, from counterinsurgency operations to large scale sustained combat operations. For many Marines, the service pistol is our secondary weapon to the service rifle, for some, it is the primary weapon. In either event, the service pistol allows Marines the flexibility to both escalate and de-escalate the amount of force used upon enemy forces, especially those enemy forces hiding amongst the civilian population. The service pistol is also an effective weapon to employ in an urban environment, and in confined spaces, a fact borne out most recently in *Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom*. These operations have taught us that we must ensure that every Marine's training prepares them to eliminate any enemy threat, while limiting any potential for collateral damage under the most adverse conditions without hesitancy, fear, or uncertainty of action.

The Marine Corps Combat Pistol Program ensures every Marine is prepared to accomplish his mission by advancing the individual Marine from the fundamentals of pistol marksmanship through advanced tactical pistol skills. This program ensures that every Marine can confidently become a proficient marksman, skilled in the tactics, techniques, and procedures of pistol employment and diligent in the proper care and maintenance of the service pistol

This circular is the Marine Corps' source document for pistol marksmanship and provides the basis for the Marine Corps' combat pistol marksmanship training. This publication provides all Marines armed with the service pistol with the tactics, techniques, and procedures for employing the M9 and M9A1, 9-mm service pistol; the M45A1 .45 caliber Close Quarters Battle pistol; and the Glock 19, 9-mm.

This circular has been published to fulfill an existing doctrinal gap and will be cancelled upon the publication of MCRP 8-10.3B, *Pistol Marksmanship*.

Recommendations for improvements to this Training Circular are encouraged from commands and individuals. The enclosed User Suggestion Form can be reproduced and forwarded to:

Commanding Officer, Weapons Training Battalion
27211 Garand Road
Quantico, Virginia 22134

Reviewed and approved this date.

P.C. FARNUM
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Weapons Training Battalion

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Pistol Marksmanship

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Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

Chapter 1
M9 Service Pistol and Equipment

The Marine Corps trains and deploys three different pistols to the operating forces. The Beretta M9 service pistol, the Colt M45A1 Close Quarters Battle Pistol, and the Glock 19. Training, techniques, and procedures are similar and standardized for all three weapon systems and are covered in this publication. The M9 service pistol is the most commonly used pistol and as such will be the weapon shown most throughout this publication. Marines should read the entire publication. The M45A1 and Glock 19 information may be discussed within the main text. When the M45A1 and Glock 19 information or visual presentations need to be called out in more detail, the reader will be directed to the appropriate appendix for each weapon.

Three callout words are used throughout this publication: Warning, Caution, and Note.

A **WARNING** indicates a hazard that may cause injury or death to personnel.

A **CAUTION** is a reminder of safety practices or directs attention to the usage practices that may result in damage to equipment.

A **Note** is a statement containing information that will make the procedure easier to perform.

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines reverse instructions as necessary.

Description and Nomenclature

For the purposes of this publication, the term "service pistol" refers to the M9 (see fig. 1-1 on page 13) and M9A1 (see fig. 1-2 on page 13) service pistols. The M9A1 pistol has a rail on the frame to accommodate attachments. The service pistol is a semiautomatic, magazine fed, recoil operated, double action pistol, chambered for the 9mm ball, NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] M882 round. The magazine holds 15 rounds. The pistol can be fired single action or double action and is designed to fire one round each time the trigger is pulled. When the last round is fired, the slide automatically locks to the rear. The pistol has a maximum effective range of 50 meters.

Figure 1-1. M9 Pistol.

Figure 1-2. M9A1 Pistol.

Right Side of Pistol

The right side of the pistol has the following features (numbers in list correspond to those in fig. 1-3 on page 14):

- Decocking/Safety Lever (1).
- Firing Pin Block (2).
- Extractor/Loaded Chamber Indicator (3) (see Major Components, Slide Assembly on page 14).
- Disassembly Button (4) (see Major Components, Receiver on page 14).

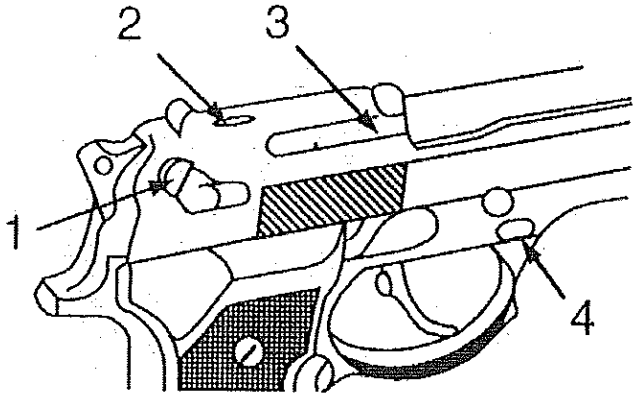


Figure 1-3. M9 Service Pistol - Right Side View.

Left Side of Pistol

The left side of the pistol has the following features (numbers in list correspond to those in fig. 1-4):

- Front Sight (5).
- Slide Assembly (6).
- Disassembly Lever (7) (see Major Components, Receiver on page 14).
- Slide Stop (8) (see Major Components, Receiver on page 14).
- Rear Sight (9).
- Hammer (10).
- Receiver (11).
- Grip (12).
- Lanyard Loop (13).
- Magazine (14). The magazine holds fifteen rounds. Rounds are visible through holes in the back of the magazine in five-round increments.
- Magazine Catch Assembly (Magazine Release Button) (15) (see Major Components, Receiver on page 15).

Trigger (16).

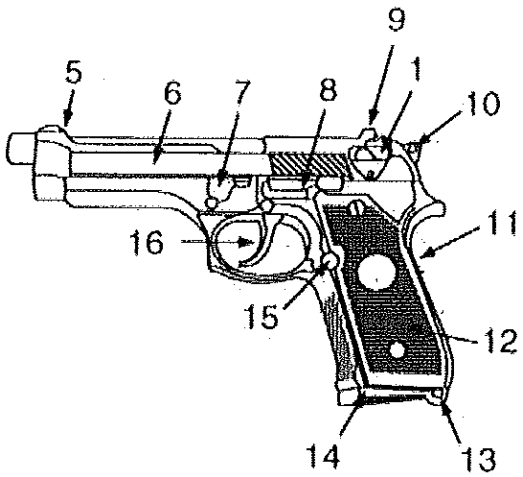


Figure 1-4. M9 Service Pistol - Left Side View.

Major Components

Slide Assembly

The slide assembly houses the firing pin, firing pin block, striker, extractor, and loaded chamber indicator, and it cocks the hammer during recoil (see fig. 1-5).

The slide assembly has the following features:

- Extractor. The extractor pulls the brass from the chamber after the round is fired.
- Loaded chamber indicator. When a round is in the chamber, the upper surface of the loaded chamber indicator protrudes from the right side of the slide. This protrusion can be felt with the finger, verifying that there is a round in the chamber.

Barrel Assembly

The barrel assembly houses the round for firing, directs the projectile, and locks the barrel in position during firing (see fig. 1-5).

Recoil Spring/Recoil Spring Guide

The recoil spring and recoil spring guide absorb recoil and return the slide assembly to its forward position (see fig. 1-5).

Receiver

The receiver supports the major components, controls the functioning of the pistol, and holds the magazine in place (see fig. 1-5 on page 16). The front and back straps of the grip are vertically grooved to ensure the hand does not slip when firing. The receiver consists of the disassembly button, slide stop, and magazine catch assembly:

- Disassembly button. The disassembly button permits quick disassembly of the pistol. While depressing the disassembly button, rotate the disassembly lever down.
- Slide stop. The slide stop holds the slide to the rear after the last round is fired. It can also be manually operated to lock the slide to the rear or release the slide.
- Magazine catch assembly (magazine release button). The magazine catch assembly secures the magazine in place when loading, and it releases the magazine from the pistol when unloading. The magazine catch assembly is designed for both right-handed and left-handed Marines.

Note: Reversal of the magazine catch assembly for left-handed Marines can be performed by a qualified armorer.

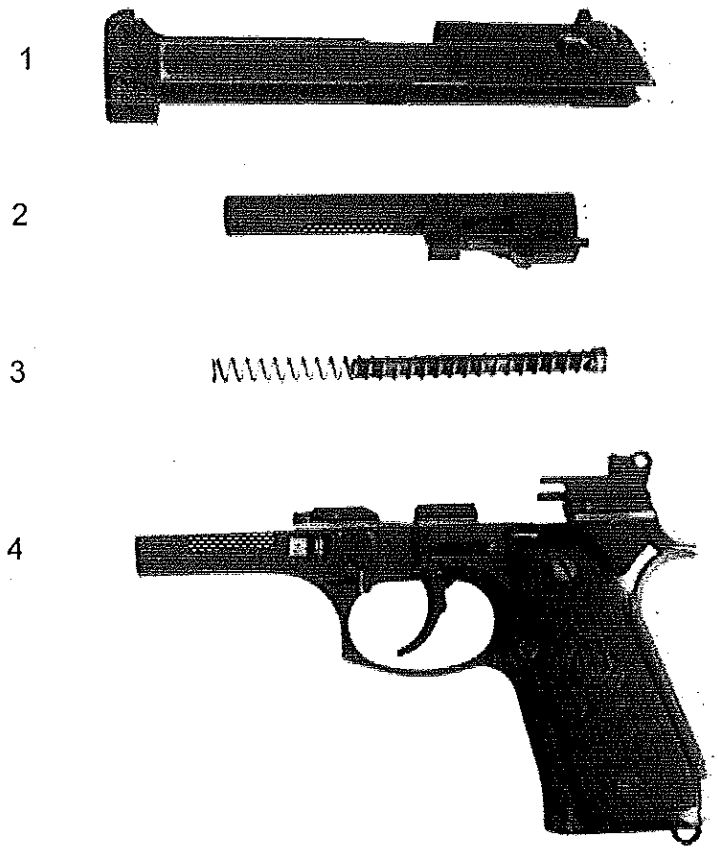


Figure 1-5. M9 Major Pistol Components.

Safety Features

Decocking/Safety Lever

The decocking/safety lever permits safe operation of the pistol by both right-handed and left-handed shooters. As the decocking/safety lever is moved to the safe (down) position, the firing pin striker moves out of alignment with the firing pin. This movement prevents the pistol from firing as the hammer moves forward (see fig. 1-6 on page 17). In the fire (up) position, a red dot is visible, indicating the pistol is ready to fire (see fig. 1-7 on page 17).

Figure 1-6. Decocking/Safety Lever On Safe.

Figure 1-7. Decocking/Safety Lever Off Safe.

Firing Pin Block

The firing pin block rests in the firing pin notch and prevents movement of the firing pin until the trigger is pulled. As the trigger is pulled, the firing pin block moves up and out of the firing pin notch (see fig. 1-8 on page 18). This movement allows a round to be fired when the hammer strikes the firing pin.

Figure 1-8. Firing Pin Block.

Half-Cock Notch

The half-cock notch stops the forward movement of the hammer during a mechanical failure (see fig. 1-9).

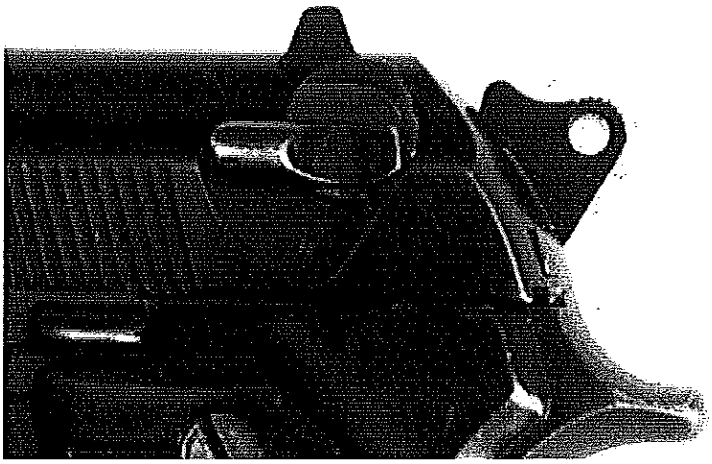


Figure 1-9. Half-Cock Notch.

Double-Action and Single-Action Fire

The M9 service pistol is capable of both double- and single-action fire. The M45A1 is capable of firing single action only. The Glock 19 is considered a double action striker fire pistol in that pistol has a striker instead of a hammer in that there is only one weighted trigger action required to fire.

Note: See Appendix B for a detailed description of the Glock 19 firing sequence.

Pistol Design

The design of the M9 service pistol causes the first shot fired to be a double-action shot unless the pistol is manually thumbcocked. Once the first shot is fired, subsequent shots are fired single

action because the cycle of operation leaves the hammer cocked to the rear, automatically placing the pistol in the single-action mode. The M45A1 is carried and holstered with the hammer to the rear, allowing for the first and subsequent shots to be fired single action.

Note: See Appendix B for a detailed description of the Glock 19 firing sequence.

Double-action Mode

In double-action firing, two actions occur as the trigger is moved to the rear: the hammer moves to the rear to cock the weapon, and then the hammer moves forward to fire the weapon (see fig. 1-10). More pressure is required on the trigger to fire a double-action shot due to the distance the trigger and hammer have to travel and the weight of the trigger. A double-action shot requires approximately 9 to 16 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward. Also, sight alignment/sight picture must be maintained for a longer period when firing a double-action shot due to the longer trigger pull. Therefore, Marines should focus on sight alignment/sight picture to ensure the sights do not move out of alignment or outside the aiming area when applying trigger control.

Note: Glock 19 requires 5.5 to 8 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward.

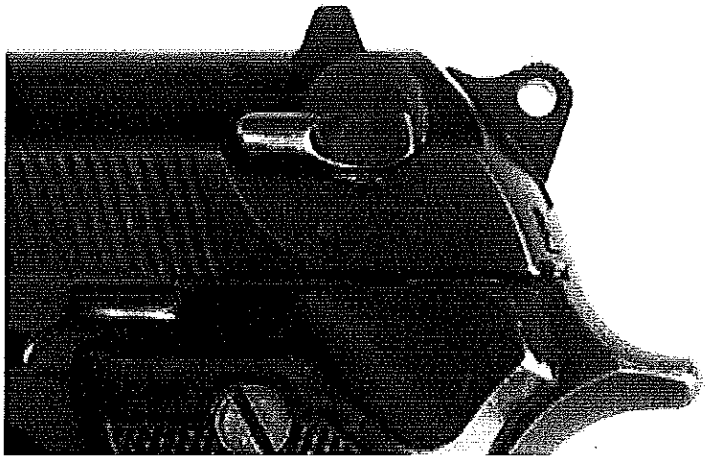


Figure 1-10. M9 Service Pistol Double-Action Mode.

Single-action Mode

In single-action mode, the pistol can be fired when the hammer is cocked; single action requires the hammer to be cocked to the rear before the trigger is pulled (see fig. 1-11 on page 20). The only action taking place as the trigger is moved to the rear is the hammer moving forward, firing the weapon The hammer can be manually cocked or mechanically cocked. The hammer is mechanically cocked after the first shot is fired. A single action shot requires approximately 4 to 6 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward and the trigger pull is much shorter than a double action shot.

Note: M45A1 requires 4 to 6 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward.

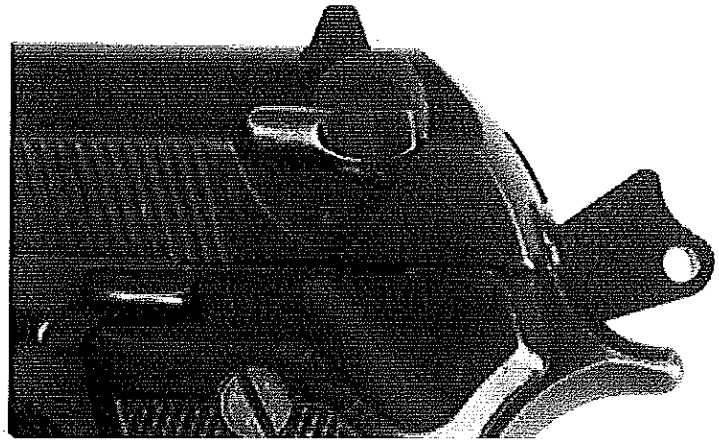


Figure 1-11. M9 Service Pistol Single-Action Mode.

Thumbcock Technique

To enable the first shot to be fired single action from the M9, the pistol's hammer can be manually cocked with the thumb.

Note: The weapon must be taken off safe before it can be thumbcocked.

Note: The Glock 19 cannot be thumbcocked. See Appendix B for a detailed description of the Glock 19 firing sequence.

To thumbcock the pistol, use the support thumb to pull back on the hammer to cock it. This ensures the firing grip of the firing hand does not have to be broken. Move the hammer all the way to the rear and keep the trigger finger straight along the receiver until the pistol is fully cocked. Re-establish the firing grip with both hands once the weapon is cocked.

M9 Semi-Automatic Pistol Cycle of Operation

The cycle of operation is similar in all semi-automatic pistols. Knowledge of what happens during the cycle of operation will help the operator understand the cause and remedy of various stoppages. The cycle of operation for the M9 pistol is broken down into eight steps: firing, unlocking, extracting, ejecting, cocking, feeding, chambering, and locking. More than one step may occur at the same time.

Note: The cycle of operation begins at any of the eight steps.

Note: See Appendix A for M45A1 cycle of operation and Appendix B for Glock 19 cycle of operation.

Firing

Once the decocking/safety lever is off and the trigger is pulled to the rear, the hammer falls on the firing pin, which strikes the primer and ignites the round (see fig. 1-12 on page 21).

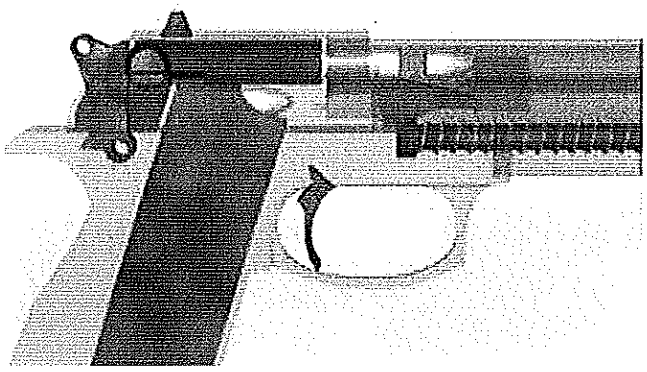


Figure 1-12. Firing.

Unlocking

As the slide assembly moves to the rear, the locking block rotates out of the notches in the slide (see fig. 1-13).

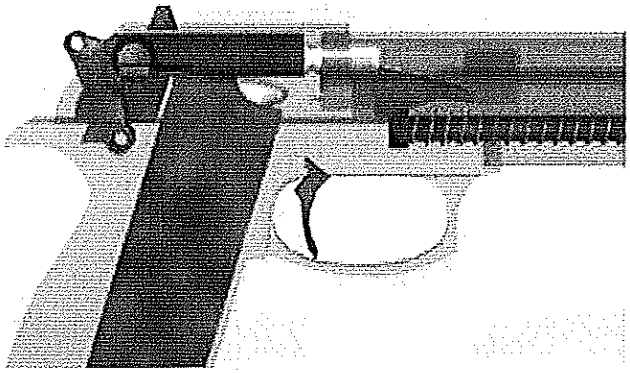


Figure 1-13. Unlocking.

Extracting

As the slide moves rearward, the extractor withdraws the cartridge case out of the chamber (see fig. 1-14).

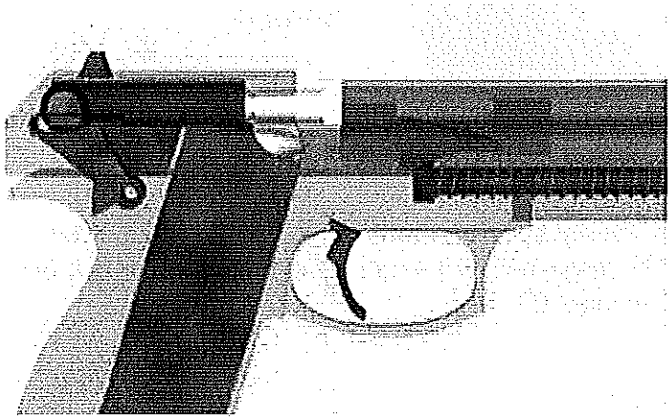


Figure 1-14. Extracting.

Ejecting

As the face of the slide passes over the ejector, the case strikes the ejector and is knocked upward and outward through the ejection port (see fig. 1-15).

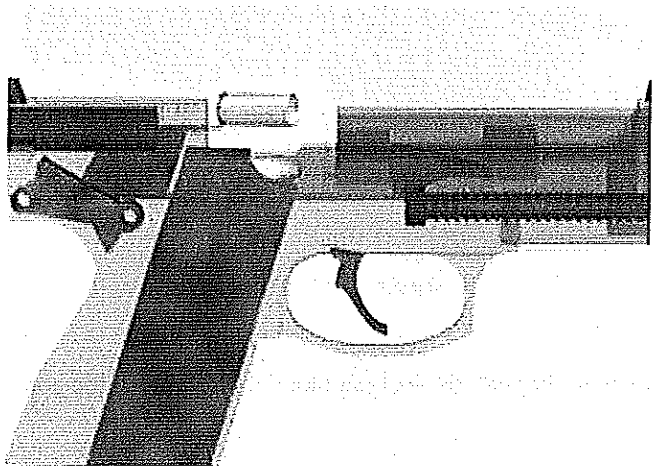


Figure 1-15. Ejecting.

Cocking

As the slide moves rearward, the hammer is pushed back. This action enables the sear to engage the hammer hooks, cocking the hammer to the rear and placing the pistol in the single-action mode (see fig. 1-16).

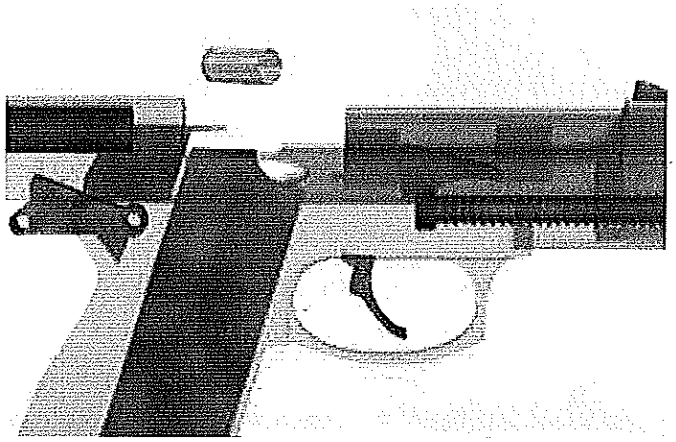


Figure 1-16. Cocking.

Feeding

The slide starts forward, pushed by the recoil spring. The face of the slide makes contact with the cartridge at the top of the magazine, stripping it from the magazine and pushing it toward the chamber (see fig. 1-17 on page 23).

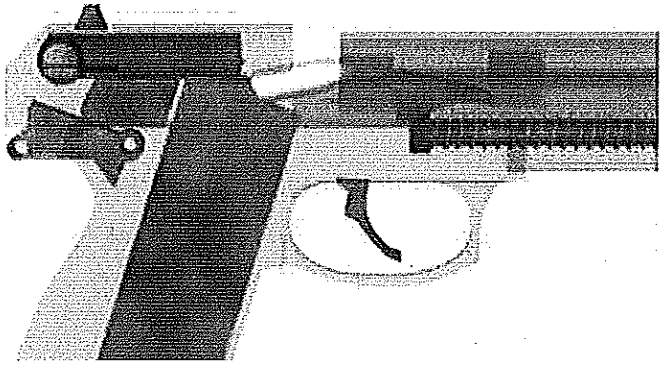


Figure 1-17. Feeding.

Chambering

As the slide continues forward, it pushes the cartridge into the chamber (see fig. 1-18).

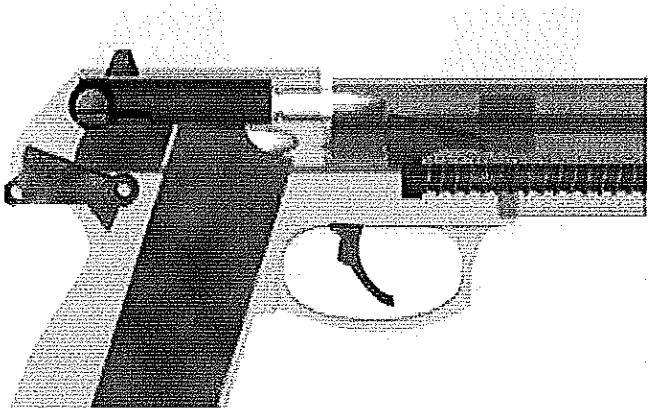


Figure 1-18. Chambering.

Locking

As the slide assembly continues to move forward, the locking block lugs move into the locking block recesses on the right and left sides of the slide (see fig. 1-19).

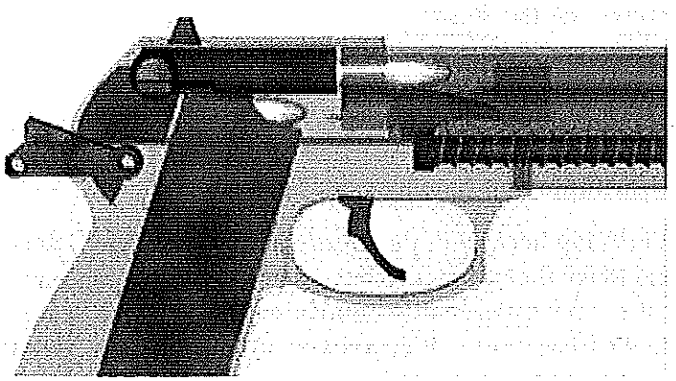


Figure 1-19. Locking.

Ammunition

The only ammunition authorized for the service pistol is 9mm ball, NATO M882 (A363) and 9mm jacketed hollow point, Mk243 Mod 0 (A260) (see fig. 1-20). For training purposes, dummy ammunition can be used. A dummy round is identified by a hole drilled in its side and the absence of a primer.

Note: Do not open ammunition containers until the ammunition is to be used.

Note: Glock 19 uses the same ammunition as the M9 service pistol. See Appendix A for M45A1 authorized ammunition.

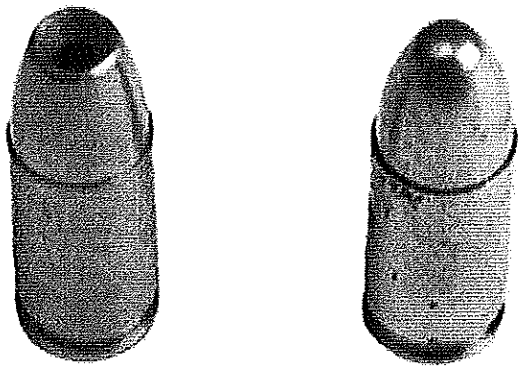


Figure 1-20. M9 Service Pistol Ammunition.

Ammunition must be cared for just as the pistol is maintained: in a high state of readiness. To care for ammunition:

- Keep ammunition dry and clean. If ammunition gets wet or dirty, wipe it off with a clean dry cloth.
- Wipe off light corrosion as soon as it is discovered. Never use ammunition that is heavily corroded, dented, or has the projectile pushed in.
- Do not expose ammunition to the direct sunlight for long periods of time.
- Do not oil or grease ammunition. Dust or other abrasives that collect on greasy ammunition may cause damage to the operating parts of the pistol. Oiled cartridges produce excessive chamber pressure.

Preventive Maintenance of the Pistol

Disassembling the Pistol

Before disassembling the pistol, you must place the weapon in Condition 4: when the magazine is removed, the chamber is empty, the slide is forward, and the decocking/safety lever is on. To disassemble the pistol, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Hold the pistol in the firing hand with the muzzle slightly elevated. Reach over the slide with the support hand and place the index finger on the disassembly button and the thumb on the disassembly lever. Press the disassembly button (see fig. 1-21 on page 25) and hold it in place while rotating the disassembly lever downward until it stops (see fig. 1-22 on page 25).

Figure 1-21. Pressing the Disassembly Button.

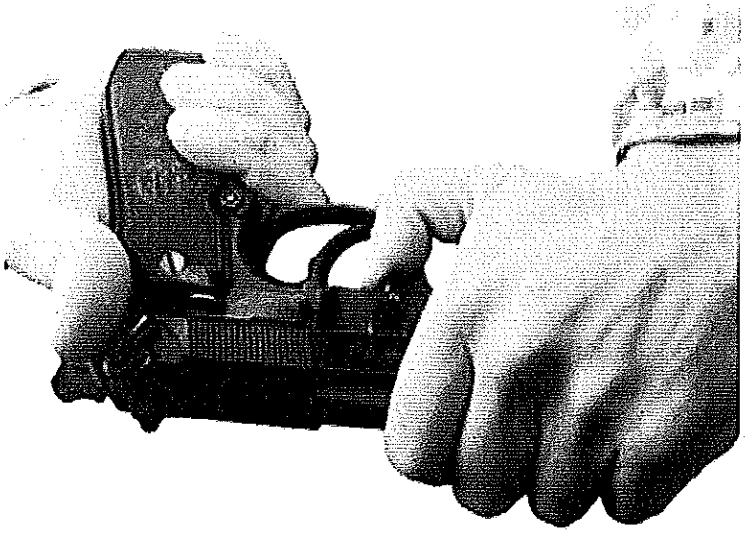


Figure 1-22. Rotating the Disassembly Lever.

2. Pull the slide and barrel assembly forward and remove it (see fig. 1-23 on page 26) while wrapping the fingers around the slide to hold the recoil spring and recoil spring guide in place.

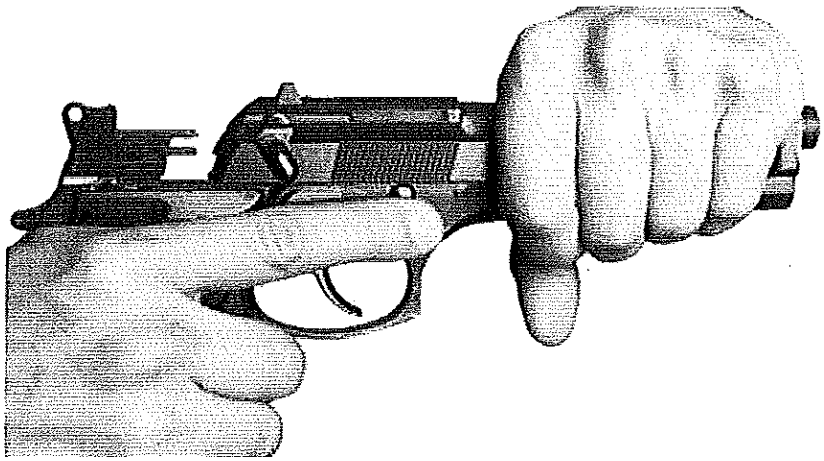


Figure 1-23. Removing the Slide and Barrel Assembly.

3. Turn the slide assembly over in the support hand until the recoil spring and recoil spring guide face up. Place the firing-side thumb on the end of the recoil spring guide next to the locking block and compress the recoil spring and spring guide while lifting and removing them from the slide and barrel assembly (see fig. 1-24). Allow the recoil spring to decompress slowly.

Figure 1-24. Removing the Recoil Spring and Spring Guide.

4. Push in on the locking block plunger with the firing-side index finger while pushing the barrel forward slightly. Lift and remove the locking block and barrel assembly from the slide (see fig. 1-25 on page 27). This is the furthest the Marine is authorized to disassemble the weapon. Any further disassembly is to be performed by ordnance personnel only.

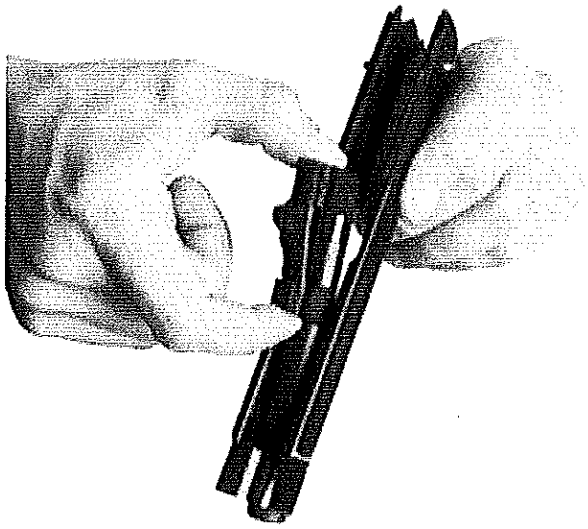


Figure 1-25. Removing the Barrel Assembly.

Inspecting the Pistol

Slide Assembly
Check for free movement of the decocking/safety lever. Ensure the rear sight is secure.

Barrel Assembly
Inspect the bore and chamber for pitting or obstructions. Check the locking block plunger for free movement of the locking block. Inspect the locking lugs for cracks and burrs.

Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide
Check the recoil spring for damage. Check that it is not bent. Check the recoil spring guide for straightness and smoothness. Check to be sure it is free of cracks and burrs.

Receiver Assembly
Check for bends, chips, and cracks. Check for free movement of the slide stop and magazine catch assembly. Check the guide rails for excessive wear, burrs, cracks, or chips.

Cleaning and Lubricating the Pistol

Only authorized cleaning materials should be used to clean and lubricate the pistol. If these items are not issued with the weapon, they may be obtained from the armory.

Slide Assembly
Clean the slide assembly with a cloth. A general purpose brush and cleaner, lubricant, and preservative (CLP) can assist in the removal of excess dirt and carbon buildup. Ensure the decocking/safety lever, bolt face, slide guides, and extractor are free of dirt and residue. Wipe dry with a cloth and apply a light coat of CLP.

Barrel Assembly
Insert a bore brush with CLP into the chamber end of the barrel, making sure it completely clears the muzzle before pulling it back through the bore.

CAUTION
Insert the bore brush through the chamber
to prevent damage to the crown of the barrel.

Repeat several times to loosen carbon deposits. Dry the barrel by pushing a swab through the bore. Repeat until a clean swab can be observed. Clean the locking block with a general purpose brush. Using the barrel brush, apply a light coat of CLP to the bore and chamber area and lubricate the exterior surfaces of the barrel and locking block.

Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide
Clean the recoil spring and recoil spring guide using CLP and a general purpose brush or cloth. After wiping the recoil spring and recoil spring guide clean, apply a light coat of CLP.

Receiver
Wipe the receiver assembly clean with a cloth. Use a general purpose brush for areas that are hard to reach. Pay special attention to the disassembly lever, trigger, slide stop, hammer, and magazine release button. Apply a light coat of CLP.

CAUTION
Do not allow the hammer to fall with full force
by pulling the trigger when the slide is removed
because this can cause damage to the receiver and hammer.

Reassembling the Pistol

To reassemble the pistol, perform the following steps in sequence:
1. With the support hand, grasp the slide with the bottom facing up and the muzzle pointing toward the body. With the firing hand, grasp the barrel assembly with the locking block facing up. With the index finger, push in the locking block plunger while placing the thumb on the base of the locking block.
2. Insert the muzzle of the barrel assembly into the forward open end of the slide. At the same time, lower the rear of the barrel assembly by slightly moving the barrel downward. The locking block should fall into the notches of the slide assembly.
3. Slip the recoil spring guide into the recoil spring.
4. Insert the end of the recoil spring and recoil spring guide into the slide recoil spring housing. At the same time, compress the recoil spring and lower the recoil spring guide until it is fully seated onto the locking block cutaway.
5. With the support hand, grasp the slide and barrel assembly, sights up, and wrap the fingers around the slide assembly to hold the recoil spring and guide in place. Align the slide assembly guide rails onto the receiver assembly guide rails.
6. Push the slide rearward while pushing up on the slide stop with the thumb. Lock the slide to the rear while maintaining upward pressure on the slide stop. Rotate the disassembly lever upward. An audible click indicates a positive lock.

Preventive Maintenance of the Pistol Magazine

Preventive maintenance of the pistol magazine includes disassembling, inspecting, cleaning, and reassembling.

Disassembling

To disassemble the magazine, perform the following steps in sequence:
1. Grip the magazine firmly in the support hand with the floorplate up and the thumb resting against the flat end of the floorplate.
2. Release the floorplate by pushing down on the floorplate retainer stud in the center of the floorplate (this is done with a blunt object like an ink pen). At the same time, slide the

floorplate a short distance forward with the thumb.

3. While maintaining magazine spring pressure with the thumb, remove the floorplate from the magazine.
4. Remove the floorplate retainer and magazine spring and follower from the magazine tube (see fig. 1-26).

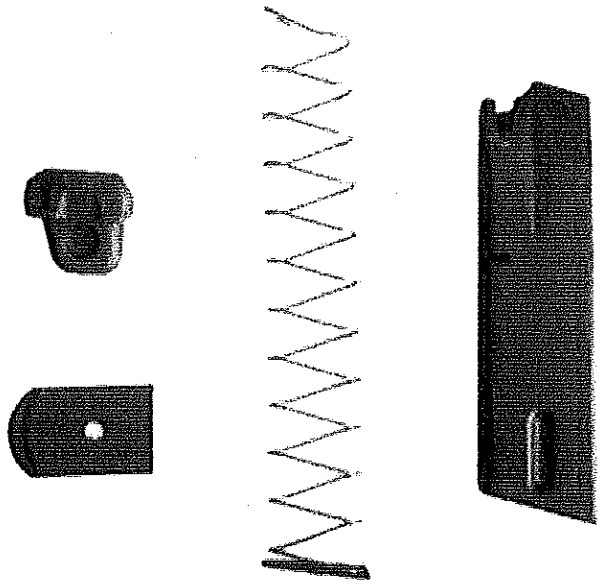


Figure 1-26. M9 Magazine Disassembled.

Inspecting

Check the spring and follower for damage. Ensure the lips of the magazine are not bent and are free of cracks and burrs. The magazine tube should not be bent or dirty.

Cleaning

Clean the magazine tube and follower with CLP and a general purpose brush. With a cloth, wipe the magazine spring, floorplate retainer, and floorplate clean. Apply a light coat of CLP.

Reassembling

To reassemble the magazine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Grip the magazine firmly in the support hand with the floorplate end up and the counting holes facing you. Insert the follower into the magazine so the flat end of the follower is against the flat end of the magazine.
2. Ensure the floorplate retainer is attached to the first curve of the bottom coil.
3. Holding the spring upright with the firing hand, insert the spring into the magazine tube so the flat end of the floorplate retainer is against the flat end of the magazine.
4. Push the magazine spring and floorplate retainer down with the firing hand and hold it in place with the thumb of the support hand. With the firing hand, slide the floorplate over the side walls of the magazine until fully seated. This will be indicated by an audible click.

Function Check

A function check is performed to check whether the pistol will fire properly. To perform a

function check, follow these steps in sequence:

1. Ensure there is no ammunition in the chamber of the pistol.
2. With the decocking/safety lever in the safe position, depress the slide stop, allowing the slide to return fully forward. At the same time, the hammer should fall to the full forward position.
3. Pull and release the trigger. The firing pin block should move up and down and the hammer should not move.
4. Place the decocking/safety lever in the fire position.
5. Pull the trigger to check the double action and hold it rearward. The hammer should cock and fall.
6. With the fingers and thumb of the support hand, grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the decocking/safety lever. Pull the slide to its rearmost position and release it while holding the trigger to the rear. Release the trigger. A click should be heard and the hammer should not fall.
7. Pull the trigger to check the single action. The hammer should fall. Place the pistol on safe.

If the function check does not indicate an operational pistol, take the pistol to organizational maintenance or the next authorized repair level.

User Serviceability Inspection

Marines are responsible for performing user serviceability inspections on their weapons prior to live fire. The user serviceability inspection ensures the weapon is in an acceptable operating condition. This inspection is not intended to replace the detailed weapon components inspection following disassembly or the limited technical inspection or pre-fire inspection conducted by an armorer. To conduct a user serviceability inspection on the pistol, follow these steps in sequence:

1. Perform a function check of the pistol (see page 27).
2. Ensure the magazine release button is on the left side of the pistol for right-handed Marines, the right side of the pistol for left-handed Marines.
3. Ensure the magazine seats into the magazine well when it is inserted and cannot be pulled out.
4. Ensure the slide stays locked to the rear when the slide is pulled rearward with an empty magazine in the weapon.
5. Ensure the magazine falls out freely when the magazine release button is depressed.
6. Repeat steps with additional magazines.
7. With the slide locked to the rear, lubricate the recoil spring guide, top of the barrel just forward of the front sight, and guide rails of the slide assembly behind the decocking/safety lever. With the muzzle pointed downward, work the slide several times and release.
8. Visually inspect the external parts of the pistol to ensure there are no cracks or excessive wear.

Maintenance of the Pistol in Extreme Weather Conditions

Combat situations can place Marines in a variety of extreme weather conditions. To ensure the continued operation of the service pistol, it is important to maintain the pistol properly in these conditions.

Extreme Cold

When operating the pistol in extremely cold climates, clean and lubricate the pistol inside at room temperature, if possible:

- Apply a light coat of Lubricant, Arctic Weather oil to all functional parts.
- Always keep the pistol dry.

To prevent freezing, keep the pistol covered when moving from a warm to a cold area. This will permit gradual cooling of the pistol:

- Do not lay a hot pistol in snow or on ice.
- Always keep snow out of the bore of the barrel. If snow should enter the bore, clean the bore using a swab and cleaning rod before firing.

Hot, Wet Climates

Pistols should be maintained more frequently in hot, wet climates:

- Inspect hidden surfaces for corrosion. If corrosion is found, clean and lubricate.
- To help prevent corrosion, remove handprints with a clean cloth. Dry the pistol with a cloth and lubricate it with CLP.
- Check ammunition and magazines frequently for corrosion. Disassemble and clean the magazines with CLP and wipe dry with a clean cloth. If necessary, clean ammunition with a dry cloth.

Hot, Dry Climates

Dust and sand can get into the pistol and cause stoppages and excessive wear on component contact surfaces during firing. Keep the pistol covered whenever possible. Corrosion is less likely to form on metal parts in a dry climate; therefore, lightly lubricate internal working surfaces with CLP. Do not lubricate external parts of the pistol. Wipe excess lubricant from exposed surfaces. Do not lubricate internal components of the magazine.

Heavy Rain and Fording Operations

Always attempt to keep the pistol dry. When it does get wet, drain any water from the barrel prior to firing. Dry the bore with a swab and cleaning rod. Then, generously lubricate internal and external surfaces of the pistol with CLP.

Amphibious Conditions

If the weapon comes into contact with salt water, clean the weapon as soon as possible. Wash the weapon with fresh water if time does not permit cleaning in accordance with TM 08993-OR/1 *Operator's Manual Pistol, Semi-Automatic, 9mm, M9, M9A1*.

Wearing of Pistol Gear

The proper placement of pistol gear will help ensure safety and aid the Marine in effectively handling and employing the weapon.

Marine Corps Holster

The Marine Corps Holster consists of the holster and an attachment device that permits it to be attached to the leg, belt, or the chest.

Leg or Belt Rig

The Marine Corps Holster may be worn on the leg (see fig. 1-27 on page 31) or the belt (see fig. 1-28 on page 31). While wearing the holster on the leg, it should be high enough for the firing hand to be able to cup the bottom of the holster while the Marine is standing up straight. A retention release button is located on the outboard side of the holster. The weapon is released

from the holster by pushing the release button with the index finger.

Figure 1-27. Marine Corps Holster Leg Rig.

Figure 1-28. Marine Corps Holster Belt Rig.

The holster should be placed just forward of the midline on the belt or side of the leg. To check for proper placement of the holster, allow the firing arm to hang freely. The holster should be placed so the palm of the hand is centered on the holster just below the pistol grip to permit easy access to the pistol upon presentation.

Adjustments may be made to rotate the holster forward or back on the rig. To adjust the holster, lift up on the two locking tabs and rotate the holster adapter counter clockwise. Then, lift and remove the holster from the female adapter on the rig. Place the holster adapter in the desired location, align the tabs, insert it into the female adapter, and rotate the holster clockwise until it clicks in place.

Chest Rig

The Marine Corps Holster may be worn on the chest (see fig. 1-29). The female adapter is attached to the chest by sliding the tabs into the webbing of the body armor. Align the tabs of the male adapter and insert it into the female adapter. Rotate the holster clockwise until it clicks in place. Place the holster on the vest in a position that enables the pistol to be withdrawn from the holster. The release button on the holster must be able to be depressed with the index finger of the firing hand. The holster may be rotated to facilitate withdrawing the weapon.

Figure 1-29. Marine Corps Holster Chest Rig.

Concealed Holster

A small percentage of Marines may be required or have the option to carry a concealed pistol as part of their Marine Corps duties. The primary consideration for placement of a concealed holster is to ensure the pistol cannot be seen. When considering placement of the concealed holster, the Marine must consider the type of clothing he or she will be wearing (see fig. 1-30 on page 34). A secondary consideration is to place it so the pistol can be presented easily. In most cases, the best position for a concealed holster is just behind the firing-side hip. This position best conceals the weapon while allowing it to be presented quickly.

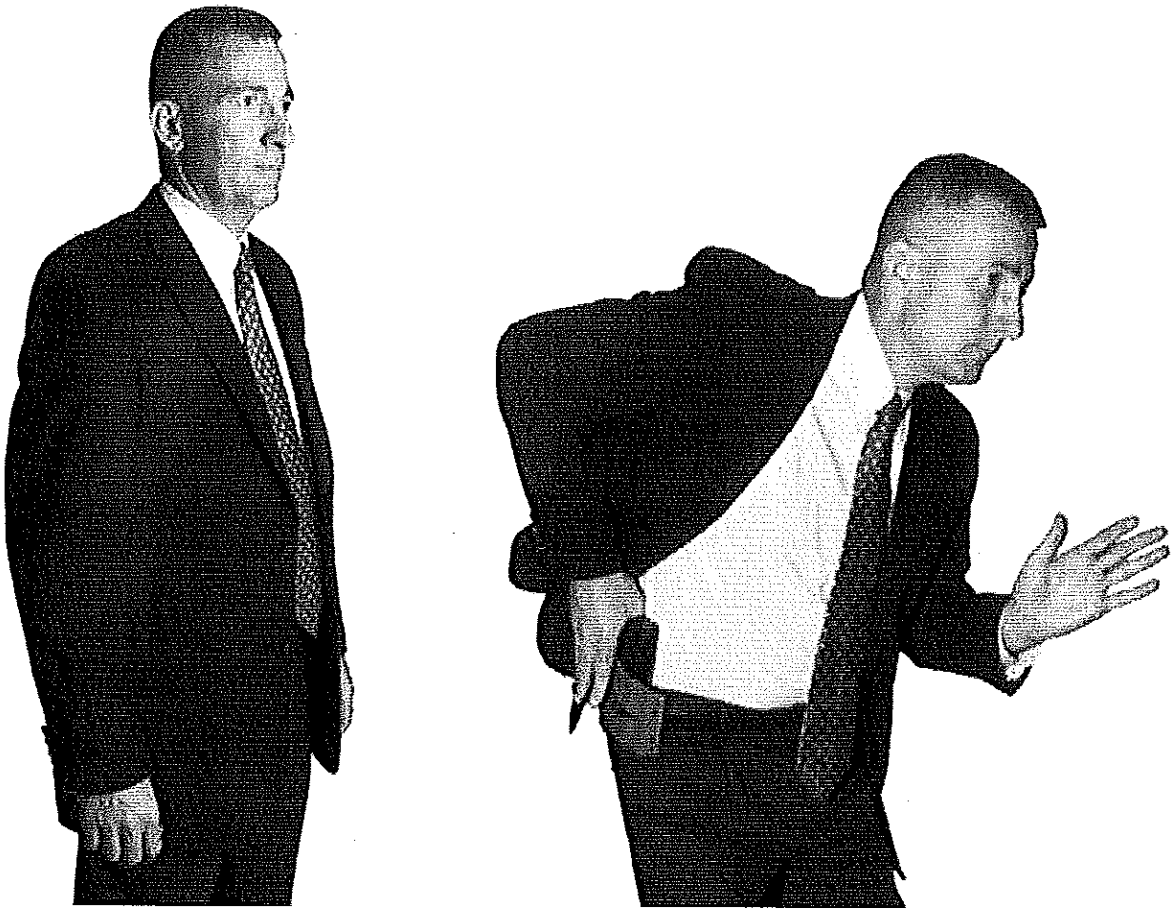


Figure 1-30. Concealed Pistol Holster.

Body Armor and Gear

Depending on the style of body armor and the type of equipment carried, range of motion may be reduced. Arms may be slightly bent to accommodate the bulk of the body armor. The arms may not fall to the sides and they may not be able to be fully extended. Body armor and gear affects the way the pistol is presented to a threat and the way a firing position is assumed.

When wearing body armor or gear, it may be difficult or impossible to wear a belt holster because the armor plates may impede access to the holster. The pistol may be holstered in a drop rig attached to the leg or in a chest-mounted holster. Consideration must be given to placement of gear that accommodates access to the pistol and magazines as well as presentation and application of the fundamentals of marksmanship (see chap. 3). If a drop rig is employed, ensure the drop rig is adjusted so that the pistol can be withdrawn from the holster. The holster may be rotated to facilitate withdrawing the weapon.

Magazine Pouch

Magazine pouches must have an external or internal retention device. The magazine pouch is attached to body armor or to the belt on the side opposite the holster, just forward of the side in a position that best permits ready access with the support hand for reloads (see fig. 1-31 on page 35). A magazine should be stored in the magazine pouch with rounds down and pointed inboard.

Figure 1-31. Wearing of Magazine Pouch.

Lanyard

The lanyard is used primarily to aid in weapon retention. It is adjustable and consists of a fabric cord that attaches to the lanyard loop of the pistol (see fig. 1-32). To ensure the lanyard is adjusted properly, remove the pistol from the holster and fully extend the firing arm. The lanyard should be taut. Make adjustments as necessary.

Figure 1-32. Lanyard.

Gloves

Not all combat engagements will take place during ideal weather conditions. During cold weather, the Marine may find it necessary to wear gloves to protect his fingers from frostbite and help prevent stiffening of the hands. Gloves may also be worn in mission oriented protective

posture (MOPP) conditions. Cold weather/MOPP gloves provide protection to the hands; however, they also may interfere with the Marine's ability to engage threats effectively. Tactical gloves affect weapon manipulation to a lesser degree than bulky gloves.

Operational Features

The added bulk of cold weather/MOPP gloves may affect the Marine's ability to activate and deactivate the safety, magazine release button, magazine, hammer, and slide stop/release. For example, the Marine may need to exert more pressure with his finger to engage the magazine release or slide release buttons to compensate for the thickness of the gloves.

Thumbcocking the Pistol

The Marine may find it particularly difficult to fire the pistol in the double-action mode due to the position of the trigger and the limited amount of space between the trigger and the trigger guard. Therefore, if the situation permits, the Marine may wish to thumbcock the pistol to fire in single-action mode. In single-action mode, there is more space between the trigger guard and the trigger, making it easier to position the finger on the trigger. However, the Marine's ability to thumbcock the pistol may also be hindered by the bulk of the gloves.

Firing the Pistol

The principles of threat engagement do not change when wearing gloves; however, the specific ability to manipulate and control the trigger will be greatly affected by the thickness of the gloves around the fingers. Wearing gloves reduces the Marine's feeling in the fingers, which makes it more challenging to apply trigger control when firing. The Marine may find that he needs to apply more pressure than normal with his trigger finger just to establish initial contact with the trigger. Once the Marine can "feel" the trigger through the gloves, then he can begin applying the pressure required to fire a shot. This action may increase the chances of firing the weapon prematurely, due to excessive pressure on the trigger. Dry firing while wearing gloves will allow the Marine to learn how to apply trigger control consistently and determine how much pressure he will need to effectively fire a shot.

Chapter 2
Weapons Handling

Weapon handling is a method of applying consistent and standardized procedures for handling, operating, and employing the service pistol. Understanding and applying the principles of weapon handling are critical to developing safe and consistent weapon skills. Strict adherence to training and diligent practice will make weapon handling instinctive. Mission accomplishment and survival in combat depend on that instinct.

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines reverse instructions as necessary.

Safety Rules

The following four safety rules are the foundation for responsible weapon handling. These rules must be observed at all times whether in training or in combat.

SAFETY RULES

Rule 1: Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.

This rule is intended to prevent unintentional injury to personnel or damage to property from handling or transferring possession of a weapon. (See page 56 regarding transferring the pistol from one Marine to another.)

Rule 2: Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.

This rule enforces the importance of muzzle awareness and reinforces positive identification of the target.

Rule 3: Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.

When not firing, the trigger finger is straight along the receiver, outside of the trigger guard. This rule is intended to minimize the risk of firing the weapon negligently. This rule also reinforces positive identification of the target.

Rule 4: Keep weapon on safe until you intend to fire.

This rule enforces the use of the weapon's own safety feature and reinforces positive identification of the target.

Weapon Conditions

The service pistol's level of readiness is defined by three specific conditions. The steps in the loading and unloading process take the weapon through the specific conditions, which indicate the weapon's readiness for live fire. The Marine must understand and know the condition of his weapon at all times. The conditions for the pistols are:

Condition 1. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, slide forward, and safety activated.

Condition 2. Not applicable to the service pistol.

Condition 3. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety activated.

Condition 4. Magazine removed, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety activated.

Weapon Check

The Marine should conduct a weapon check whenever he has time or thinks of it. For example, after an engagement is over and before holstering the pistol, the Marine should check the condition of his weapon. A weapon check is completed by checking if a round is in the chamber and if there are rounds remaining in the magazine.

Determine if a Round is in the Chamber

To determine if a round is in the chamber and the pistol's condition, a chamber check may be conducted at any time (e.g., after placing the weapon in Condition 1 or whenever the time or situation dictates). There are two methods of checking the chamber: by conducting a chamber check and by checking the round indicator on the right side of the pistol.

Chamber Check

To perform a chamber check, complete the following steps in sequence:

1. With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, place the trigger guard in the palm of the support hand and, with the thumb and index finger, grasp the forward end of the slide at the indentations under the front sight behind the muzzle (see fig. 2-1).

WARNING

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.

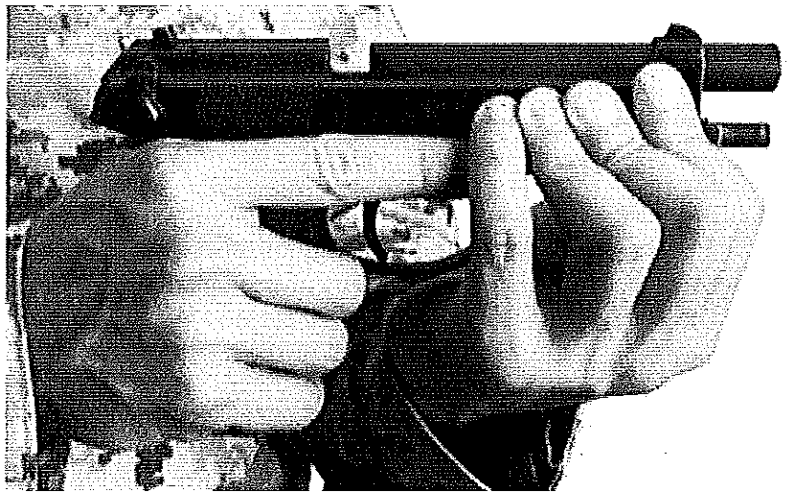


Figure 2-1. Position of Hands during a Chamber Check.

2. Keeping the thumb in place around the back strap of the pistol, rotate the fingers of the firing hand over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight.
3. Pull the slide to the rear by pulling back on the rear sight with the fingers while providing resistance with the thumb. Use the support hand to steady the weapon and to assist, as necessary.
4. Hold the slide to the rear with the firing hand just enough to visually inspect the chamber for a round. Physically check for a round by inserting a finger of the firing hand into the ejection port area (see fig. 2-2).

CAUTION

Pulling the slide too far to the rear while inspecting the chamber may cause a stoppage or the ejection of a round.

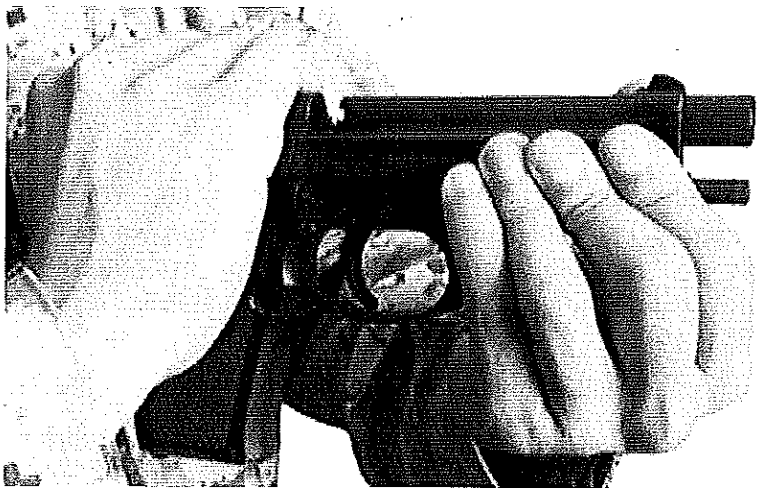


Figure 2-2. Chamber Check.

5. Remove the finger from the chamber and release tension on both hands to allow the slide to go forward. Ensure the slide is all the way forward.

Checking the Round Indicator

When there is a round in the chamber, the upper surface of the extractor protrudes from the right side of the slide (see fig. 2-3 on page 40). The protrusion can be felt by sliding a finger or thumb of the support hand over the top of the slide and across the extractor. Red paint on the extractor further indicates a round in the chamber; however, over time the red paint can be rubbed off.

Note: When wearing gloves or under duress, it may be difficult to feel this protrusion.

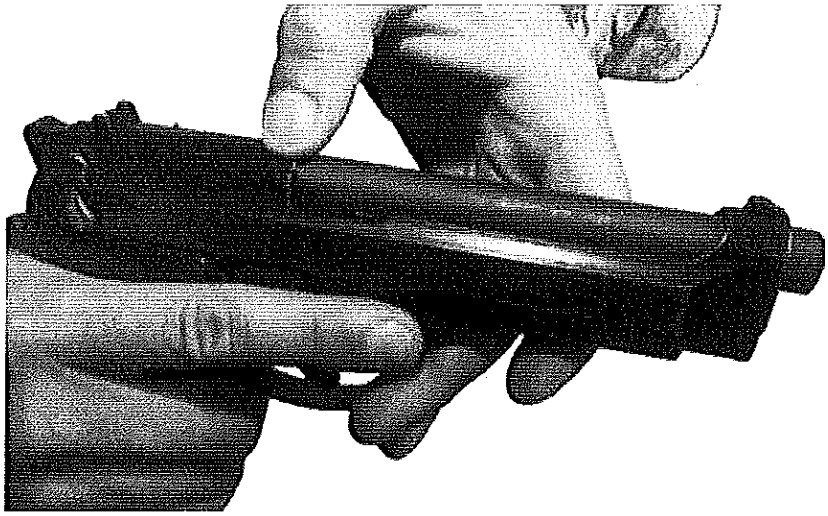


Figure 2-3. Round Indicator.

Determine if Rounds are in the Magazine

Remove the magazine and look at the top of the magazine for a round present. Look at the holes on the back of the magazine. Each hole is spaced in increments representing five rounds. If rounds are present viewed through the top hole, there are at least five rounds in the magazine (see fig. 2-4). If rounds are present in the second hole, there are at least 10 rounds in the magazine, and so on.

Note: The M45A1 magazine can be viewed through the sides for an individual round count.

Note: The Glock 19 magazine has holes in the back allowing for an individual round count.

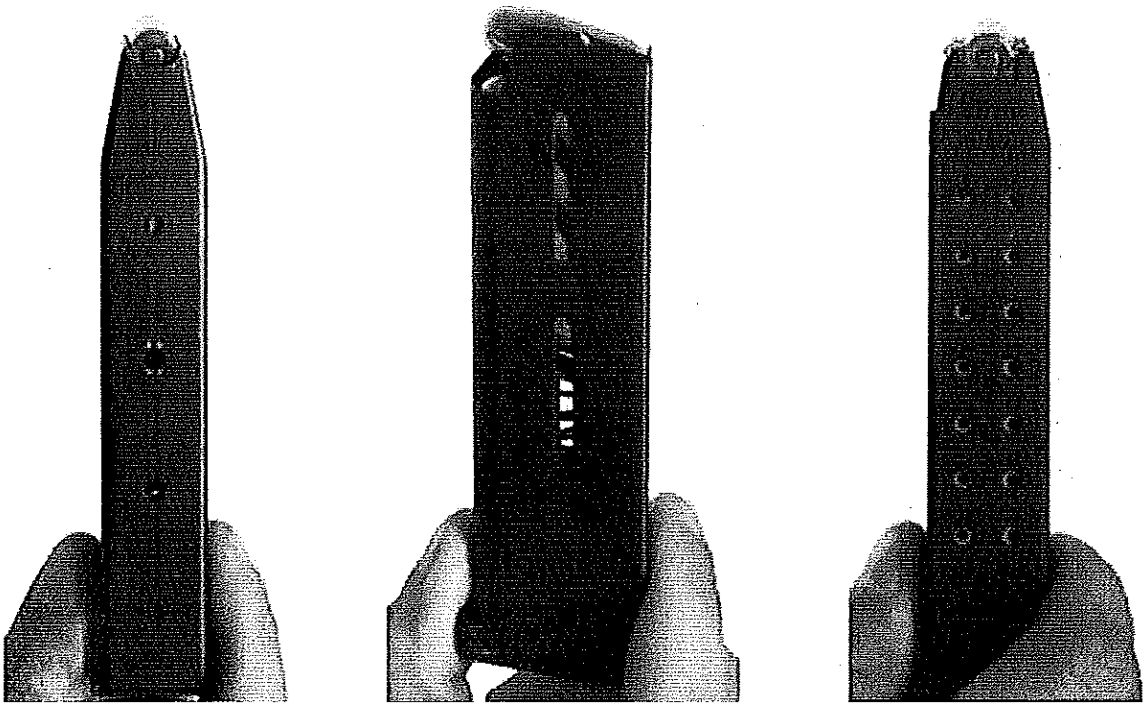


Figure 2-4. Five Rounds in the Magazine.

Note: If there is a round in the chamber, but no rounds in the magazine, the Marine should conduct a tactical reload (see page 55). Stow the empty magazine before withdrawing and inserting a filled magazine.

Filling and Emptying Magazines

To fill a magazine, perform the following steps:

1. Hold the magazine with the back of the magazine against the palm of the support hand and with the follower up.
2. With the firing hand, place a round (primer end first) on the follower in front of the magazine lips (see fig. 2-5).

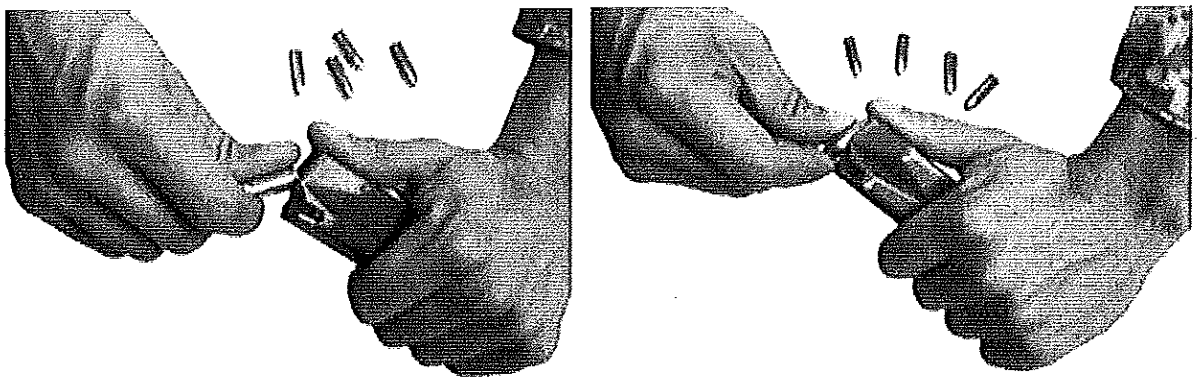


Figure 2-5. Filling the Magazine.

3. Press down on the round and slide the round completely back under the lips. The thumb or finger may push down on the back of the round to assist. The base of the round should be flush with the back of the magazine.
4. Repeat this procedure until the magazine is filled with the appropriate number of rounds.
5. Store the magazine in the magazine pouch with rounds down and pointed inboard.

Once the weapon is unloaded, the pistol magazine can be emptied of ammunition. To empty the magazine, perform the following steps:

1. Hold the magazine upright with the back of the magazine tube against the palm of the support hand.
2. Push the top round forward with the thumb and catch it with the firing hand as it is removed.
3. Repeat until the magazine is empty.

Weapon Carries

Ready

The ready is effective for movement in open and close quarters for better control of the weapon. With the pistol, the ready is employed when there is no threat, but contact with the enemy is imminent. To perform the ready (see fig. 2-6 on page 42):

Figure 2-6. Ready.

1. Ensure the pistol is on safe.
2. Grasp the pistol grip firmly with two hands. The trigger finger is straight and the thumb is in position to deactivate the safety.
3. Bend the elbows just enough to drop the rear sight and allow the eyes to look over the barrel to maintain a clear field of view. Bending the elbows is particularly advantageous in close quarters environments and for additional control when moving. The muzzle of the pistol is pointed in the direction of likely enemy contact.

Sul

The Sul position is considered a safety carry. The name "Sul" is taken from the Portuguese language. It simply means "south" since that is where the muzzle is generally oriented in this position (see fig. 2-7 on page 43). Sul allows you to move around other Marines or friendlies without jeopardizing their safety but still maintaining a combat-ready posture.

Marines need to understand threats can come from 360 degrees. Sul is a compressed position, closer to the shooter's chest than the ready position and suited to crowded environments. With correct technique, a weapon held in this position is less likely to violate safety rule #2 (see page 35). Sul also prevents the muzzle from pointing at the shooter's feet and legs when scanning 360 degrees. Sul position is used to hold your weapon in a safe position when it is out of the holster and you are not actively searching or pointing your weapon at a threat. For example, if you and another Marine were conducting a house search, you would have your pistol at the ready position. If the other Marine had to pass in front of you for some reason, you can go to Sul, allow him to safely pass and then return to a ready position.

To perform the Sul:

1. Ensure the pistol is on safe and the trigger finger is straight along the receiver.
2. Bend the elbows all the way to the sides of the body simultaneously pivoting on the thumbs while rotating the pistol muzzle directly down (south). The support hand rests flat against the solar plexus.

Note: Both thumb tips should remain touching throughout the movement and when in the Sul.

3. The firing hand wrist is bent just enough to keep the muzzle pointed down in front your feet. The deviation in the wrist should not be painful. The slide of the pistol is held against the back of the knuckles of the support hand. This will ensure a slight offset from the body, ensuring the muzzle is clear of your feet.

To recover to the ready or a firing position from the Sul:

1. Reverse the pistol movement, pivoting on the thumbs and re-establishing the desired firing position.

Figure 2-7. Sul Position.

Administrative

The pistol is administratively transported in one of two ways: administrative and holster. The administrative transport is used when the Marine does not have a holster (see fig. 2-8 on page 44):

Figure 2-8. Administrative Carry.

1. Establish a firm grip around the pistol grip with the firing hand.
2. Ensure the pistol is on safe; the magazine is removed, the slide is locked to the rear, and the trigger finger is straight along the receiver.
3. Bend the elbow to approximately a 45-degree angle so the pistol is positioned near shoulder level. The wrist should be straight so the muzzle of the weapon is pointing up.

Holster Carry

The holster carry is the most common method of carrying the pistol because it can be transported safely in the holster. This carry is used when there is no immediate threat (enemy contact remote). To carry the pistol in the holster (see fig. 2-9 on page 45):

Figure 2-9. Holster Carry.

1. With the pistol pointed in a safe direction, ensure the safety is activated, the slide is forward, and the trigger finger is straight.
2. With the firing hand firmly gripping the pistol grip, look down at the holster ensuring a clear path, bring the pistol back to a position above the holster and rotate the muzzle down into the holster.
3. Push the pistol snugly into the holster.

Weapon Commands and Procedures

Weapon Commands

Weapon commands direct the Marine to safely load, unload, and employ the service pistol. Six commands are used in weapon handling.

Make a Condition 3 Weapon

This command is used to load the weapon, taking it from Condition 4 to Condition 3.

Make a Condition 1 Weapon

This command is used to make the weapon ready, taking it from Condition 3 to Condition 1.

Fire

This command is used to engage targets.

Cease Fire

This command is used to cease target engagement.

Make a Condition 4 Weapon

This command is used to unload the weapon, taking it from any condition to Condition 4.

Show Clear

This command is used to require a second individual to check the weapon to verify that no ammunition is present before the weapon is put into Condition 4.

Loading the Pistol

On the command *Make a Condition 3 Weapon*, the pistol is loaded (Condition 4 to Condition 3). Perform the following steps to load the pistol:

1. Ensure the pistol is on safe.
2. With the firing hand firmly gripping the pistol and the pistol pointed in a safe direction, bring the weapon up into your workspace with the magazine well at eye level. Workspace is defined as the area in which you can manipulate and control the weapon while maintaining observation of the downrange area without having to move the head and eyes (see fig. 2-10 on page 47). Cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck and the muzzle is pointing up.

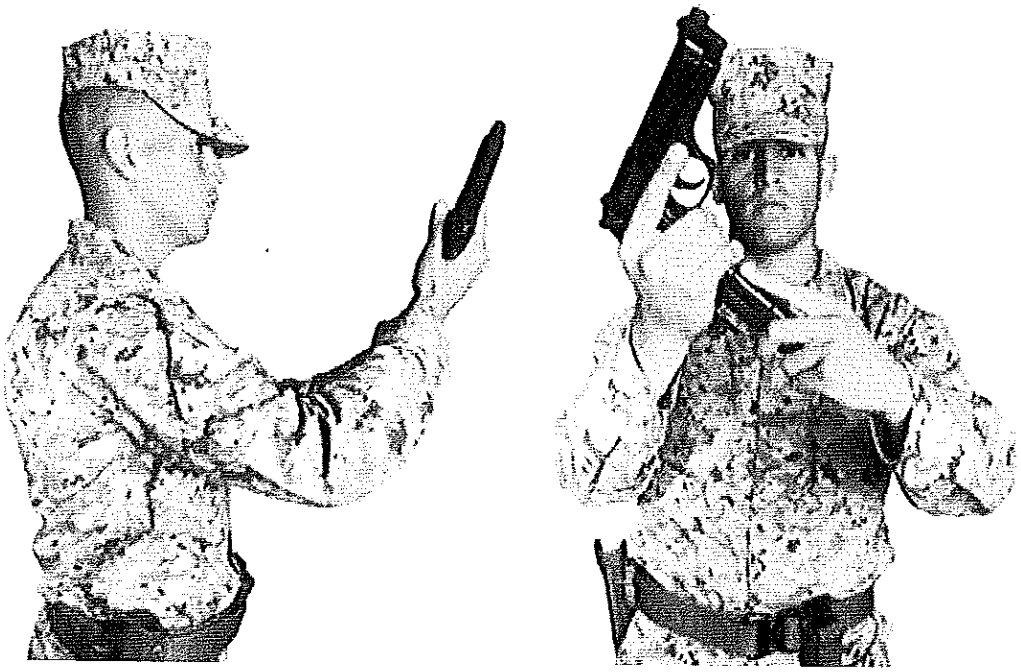


Figure 2-10. Bringing the Pistol into the Workspace.

3. With the support hand, remove a filled magazine from the magazine pouch by curling the middle finger and thumb of the support hand around the base of the magazine, with the index finger straight along the magazine pouch. As the magazine is being withdrawn from the pouch, the index finger should be along the front of the magazine. This is known as indexing the magazine (see fig. 2-11).

Figure 2-11. Indexing the Magazine.

4. Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well by guiding it with the index finger and, with the fingers extended, pushing it in with the heel of the support hand without relinquishing contact with the magazine until it is fully seated. This is known as seating the magazine (see fig. 2-12).

Figure 2-12. Seating the Magazine.

Making the Pistol Ready

On the command "*Make a Condition 1 weapon,*" the pistol is made ready (Condition 3 to Condition 1). Perform the following steps to make the pistol ready:

1. Firmly grip the pistol grip with the firing hand. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and the slide is in its forward position.
2. To facilitate pulling the slide to the rear, rotate the magazine well outboard. With the fingers and thumb of the support hand, grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the safety (see fig. 2-13 on page 49).

CAUTION

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.

Figure 2-13. Grasping the Slide to Make Ready.

3. Pull the slide to its rearmost position by pushing forward with the firing hand while pulling back on the slide with the support hand (see fig. 2-14).

Figure 2-14. Pulling the Slide to the Rear.

4. Release the slide. This will feed a round from the magazine and chamber it as the slide moves forward.

5. Conduct a chamber check to ensure a round is in the chamber (see page 36). A chamber check may be conducted at any time to check the pistol's condition.

Firing the Pistol

To fire the pistol, take the weapon off safe with the thumb while keeping the trigger finger straight. Place the trigger finger on the trigger and apply pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired.

Ceasing Fire

Perform the following steps to stop firing the pistol:
1. Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
2. Place the weapon on safe without breaking the grip of the firing hand.
3. Assume a carry.

Unloading the Pistol

On the command *Make a Condition 4 Weapon*, the pistol is unloaded (from any condition to Condition 4). Perform the following steps to unload the pistol:
1. With the firing hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.
2. Bring the pistol into your workspace. The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged (see fig. 2-15).

Figure 2-15. Angle of Magazine Well during Unloading.

3. Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the support hand and retain it.
4. Push upward on the slide stop with the thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so

the chamber is outboard.

Note: A left-handed Marine will push upward on the slide stop with the index finger.

5. Reach over the top of the pistol with the support hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. The support hand should partially cover the ejection port so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.
6. With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, slowly retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the support hand (see fig. 2-16).

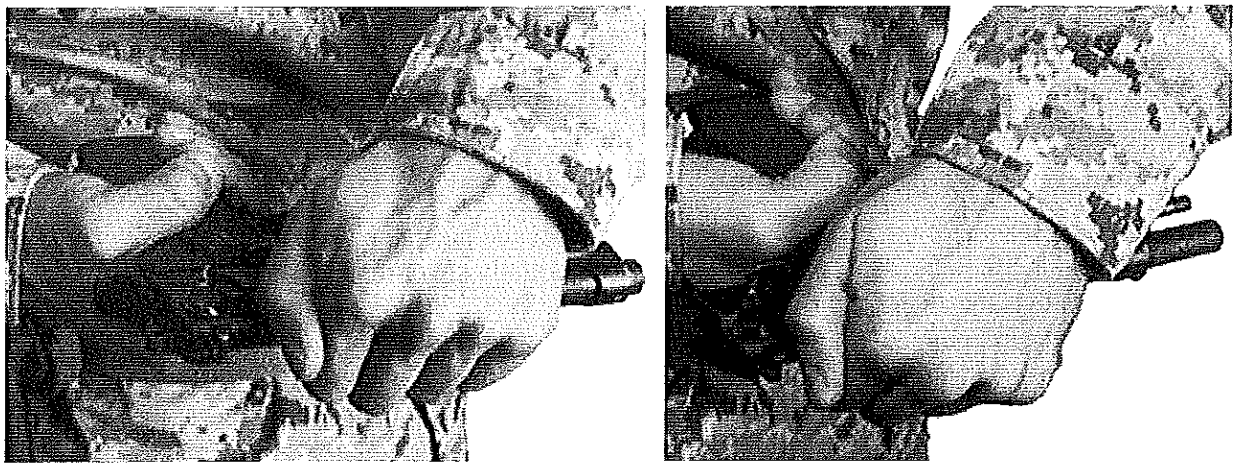


Figure 2-16. Catching the Ejected Round.

7. Rotate the pistol so the inside of the chamber can be seen. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.
8. Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber (see fig. 2-17).

Figure 2-17. Observing the Slide Go Forward on an Empty Chamber.

9. Return the ejected round to the magazine.

Showing the Pistol Clear

On the command *Show Clear*, the pistol is unloaded with a secondary inspection (from any condition to Condition 4). Perform the following steps to perform the Show Clear:

1. With the firing hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.
2. Bring the pistol into your workspace (see page 47).

Note: The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

3. Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the support hand and retain it.
4. Push upward on the slide stop with the thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so the chamber is outboard.

Note: A left-handed Marine will push upward on the slide stop with the index finger.

5. Reach over the top of the pistol with the support hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. The support hand should partially cover the ejection port so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.
6. With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, fully retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the support hand.
7. Rotate the pistol so the inside of the chamber can be seen. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.
8. Bring the pistol to the administrative carry and have a second party inspect the chamber to ensure no ammunition is present (see fig. 2-18).

Figure 2-18. Show Clear.

9. The second individual visually inspects the pistol's chamber to ensure it is empty, no ammunition is present, and the magazine is removed; ensures the weapon is on safe; and acknowledges the pistol is clear.
10. Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.

Pistol Reloads

Considerations for Reloading

The first priority when performing a reload is to get the pistol reloaded and back into action; the second is to retain the magazine, so, when you move, your magazine moves with you. Keep the following points in mind:

- When time permits (tactical reload), retain magazines securely on your person (e.g., magazine pouch, load-bearing equipment). It requires discipline to retain all equipment.
- The combat situation may dictate dropping the magazine to the deck when performing a reload (speed reload). When possible, pick it up and retain it before moving to another location.
- Take cover before reloading, if possible. Always reload before leaving cover to take advantage of the protection.
- When reloading, your focus should be on reloading only. Do not focus on the enemy; focus for that instant on the magazine change.

Speed Reload

A speed reload is conducted when the pistol runs out of ammunition during engagement and the slide locks to the rear. To perform a speed reload with the slide locked to the rear, perform the following steps (see fig. 2-19 on page 54):

Note: The weapon is not placed on safe during a speed reload; the trigger finger is taken out of the trigger guard and placed straight along the side of the receiver.

1. Seek cover, if the situation permits.
2. While retaining the firing grip with the firing hand, bring the pistol in to your workspace to facilitate control.

Note: The primary objective during a speed reload is to get the pistol back in action as quickly as possible. Following engagement, retain the magazine before moving.

3. Press the magazine release button with the firing hand thumb and simultaneously remove and index a filled magazine from the magazine pouch with the support hand. While bringing the support hand toward your workspace, allow the empty and the full magazines to pass in flight.
4. Insert the full magazine into the magazine well and use the heel of the support hand to ensure that it is fully seated. Press the slide release with the firing hand thumb to chamber the next round.

Note: A left-handed Marine will press the slide stop with the index finger.

5. Re-establish a two-handed grip and present the weapon and re-engage the threat.

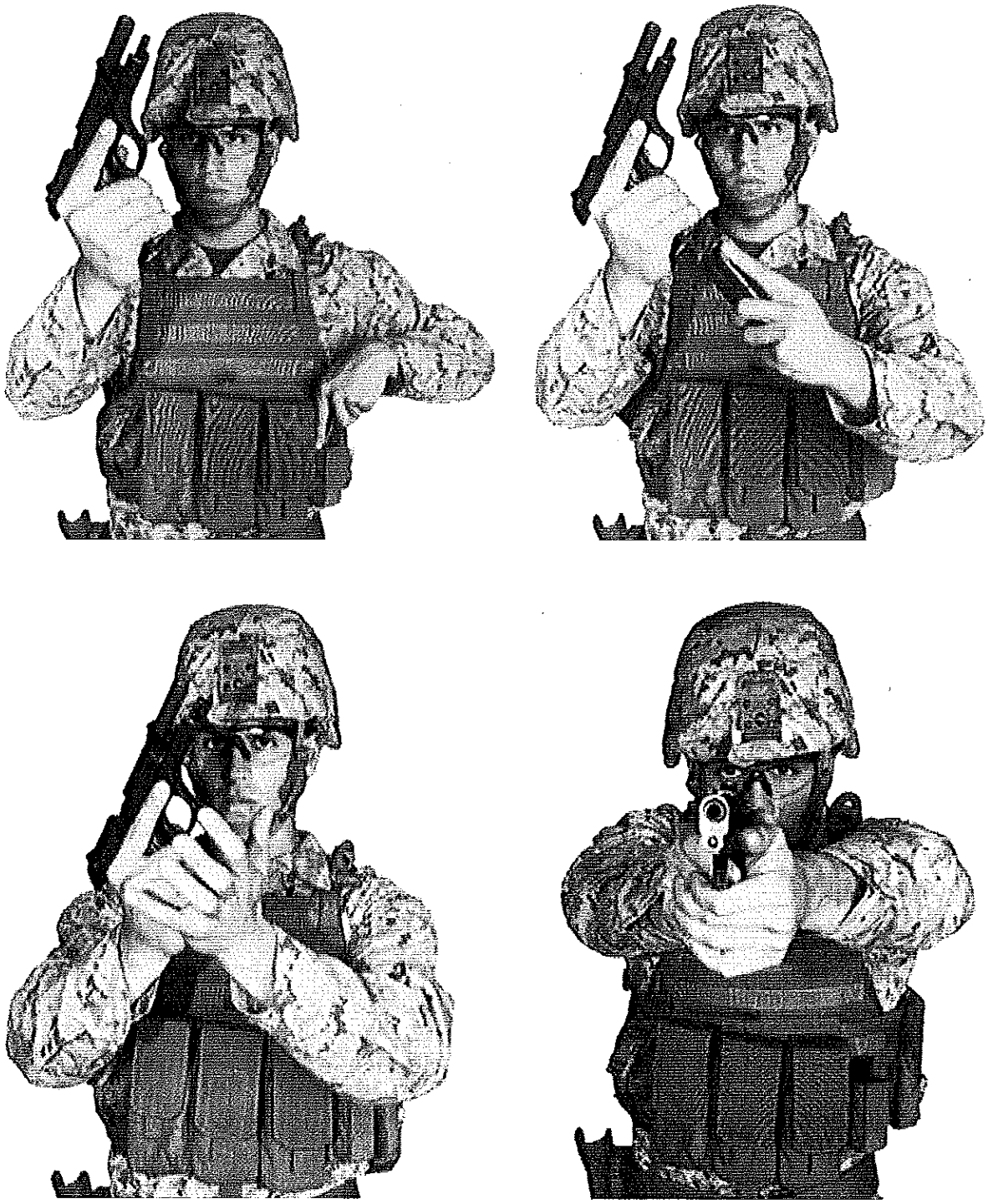


Figure 2-19. Speed Reload.

Tactical Reload

In a tactical reload, a partially filled or empty magazine is removed from the pistol and replaced with a fully filled magazine. A tactical reload is performed when there is a lull in the action or whenever deemed necessary by the Marine. To perform a tactical reload, Marines should

complete the following steps in sequence:

1. While retaining the firing grip with the firing hand, bring the pistol in to your workspace to facilitate control, while simultaneously withdrawing a filled magazine from the magazine pouch with the support hand.
2. Index the magazine and bring the support hand up to your workspace.

Note: If a reload is required as observed after dropping the magazine to determine if rounds are present, stow the empty/partially filled magazine before withdrawing and inserting a filled magazine.

3. Raise the pistol and bring the magazine well to the right of eye level and cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck. At the same bring he support hand to a position that allows it to catch the partially filled magazine.
4. Press the magazine release button with the firing-side thumb to eject the partially filled or empty magazine from the magazine well and grasp it between the index and middle finger or the ring finger and small finger of the support hand (see fig. 2-20).

Note: The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

Figure 2-20. Ejecting the Partially Filled Magazine.

5. Rotate the support hand to guide and insert the full magazine into the magazine well (see fig. 2-21 on page 56) and, using the heel of the support hand, ensure it is fully seated.

Figure 2-21. Inserting the Filled Magazine.

6. Lower the pistol and point it in the direction of the likely threat.
7. If time permits, examine the partially filled magazine to determine the number of rounds remaining.

Immediate and Remedial Action

The service pistol is an effective and extremely reliable weapon. Proper care and preventive maintenance will usually ensure the pistol's serviceability. Stoppages, while infrequent, do occur. To keep the weapon in action, stoppages must be cleared as quickly as possible through immediate action or remedial action.

Note: See appendix A for additional M45A1 specific information.
Note: See appendix B for additional Glock 19 specific information.

Stoppage

A stoppage is an unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation. An example of a stoppage is the slide not going fully forward. A stoppage is normally discovered when the pistol will not fire. Most stoppages can be prevented by proper care, cleaning, and lubrication of the pistol.

Malfunction

A malfunction is a failure of the pistol to fire satisfactorily or to perform as designed. A malfunction does not necessarily cause an interruption in the cycle of operation. An example of a malfunction is a broken front sight that does not affect the functioning of the weapon. When a malfunction occurs, the weapon must be repaired by an armorer.

Shooter-Induced Stoppages

Many stoppages of the service pistol are caused by shooter error. The Marine must be aware of these shooter-induced stoppages so he can avoid making these mistakes and, if he does make a mistake, can quickly identify and remedy a problem and get his weapon back into action. Shooter-induced stoppages include the following:

- The shooter fails to make ready.
- The shooter fails to take the weapon off safe prior to firing.
- The shooter activates the safety while firing.
- The shooter engages the magazine release button while firing.
- The shooter engages the slide stop while firing.
- The shooter fails to reset the trigger.
- The shooter fails to recognize the weapon has run dry and the slide has locked to the rear.
- The shooter fails to offer enough resistance to recoil.

Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

WARNING

When an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced, under no circumstances is immediate action performed. An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and a lower report: the pistol will not cycle. This is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping from the chamber area.

Training Environment. If an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced during firing, immediately cease fire. Do not apply immediate action; instead, perform the following steps:

1. Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
2. Point the pistol down range.
3. Place the pistol on safe.
4. Raise a hand for assistance from range personnel.

Combat Environment. The tactical situation may dictate correction of an audible pop or reduced recoil. To clear the pistol, perform the following steps:

1. Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
2. Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
3. Insert something into the bore and clear the obstruction.
4. Observe the barrel for cracks or bulges.
5. Reload the weapon.

Immediate and Remedial Action Procedures

These actions consist of the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation through immediate or remedial action. There is no one set of procedures that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the service pistol. Once the pistol ceases firing, the Marine must seek cover (if the tactical situation permits or requires) and visually or physically inspect the chamber area to identify the problem.

Immediate Action

Immediate action is an un-hesitating response to a stoppage and consists of Tap, Rack, Bang. To return the weapon to operation using immediate action procedures:

- Bring the weapon into your workspace while maintaining downrange observation.
- Tap: strike upward on the bottom of the magazine with the heel of the support hand to ensure it is fully seated.
- Rack: rotate the magazine well outboard and pull the slide all the way to the rear with the support hand while pushing forward with the firing hand. Release the slide to ensure a round is chambered.
- Bang: re-establish a two-handed firing grip, sight in and attempt to fire.

Remedial Action

Remedial action is performed when a stoppage isn't cleared by immediate action.
To return the weapon to operation using remedial action procedures:

- Seek cover.
- Bring the weapon into your workspace while maintaining downrange observation and lock the slide to the rear.
- Press the magazine release button and pull the magazine out of the magazine well.
- Grasping the serrated sides of the pistol, cycle the slide three to four times to clear the chamber.
- Withdraw a full magazine with the support hand and insert it into the magazine well ensuring it is fully seated.
- Rotate the magazine well outboard and rack the slide with the support hand to chamber the next round. Release the slide to ensure a round is chambered.
- Re-establish a two-handed firing grip, sight in and attempt to fire.

Transferring the Pistol

The Marine's ability to transfer a weapon to another Marine is critical to safe weapons handling. There are two methods for transferring the pistol from one Marine to another: show clear and condition unknown. Each is performed based on the operational environment/combat situation.

Show Clear Transfer

To transfer the weapon:

1. While grasping the pistol firmly in the firing hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.
2. Remove the magazine.
3. Lock the slide to the rear and catch the round if there is a round in the chamber.
4. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty and leave the slide locked to the rear.
5. If the other Marine is to the right, cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the support hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip. If the other Marine is to the left: With the support hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the fingers over the slide and the thumb underneath. Release the firing grip.
6. With the muzzle pointed up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction and with the chamber exposed, hand the pistol to the other Marine, grip first (see fig. 2-22 on page 59).

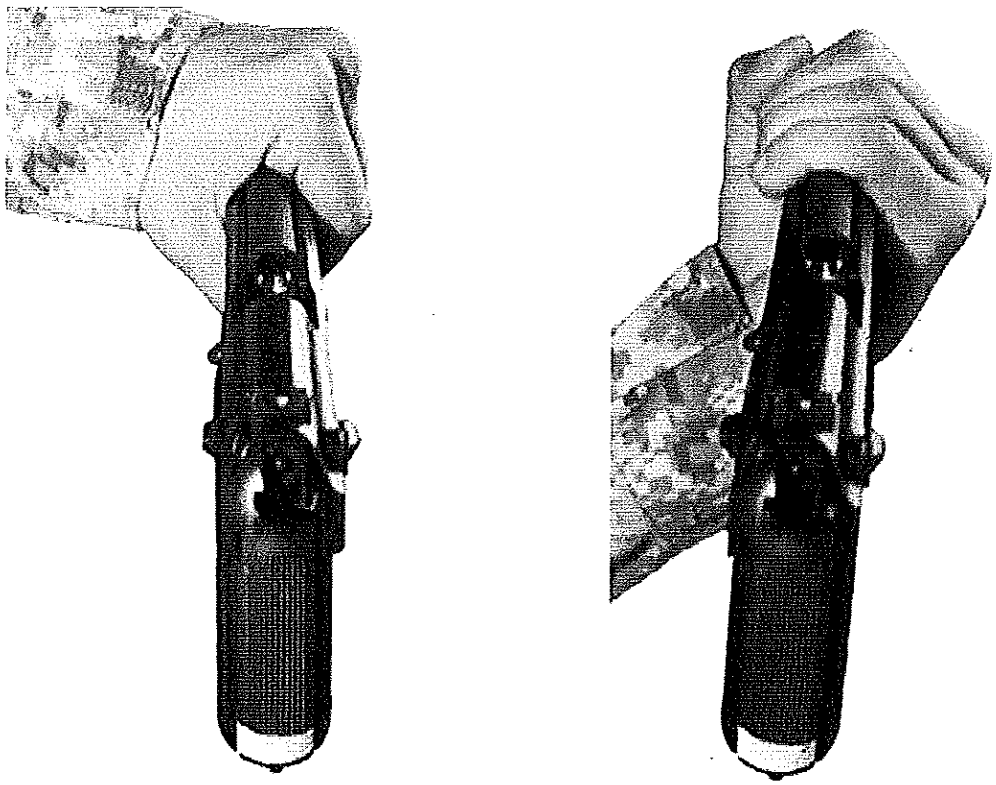


Figure 2-22. Show Clear Transfer.

Note: Return the ejected round to the magazine.

The other Marine then grasps the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver, visually inspects the chamber to ensure it is empty, and ensures the pistol is on safe.

Condition Unknown Transfer

To transfer the weapon:

1. While grasping the pistol firmly in the firing hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.
2. If the other Marine is to the right, cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the support hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip. If the other Marine is to the left, grasp the slide of the pistol with the support hand with the fingers over the slide and the thumb underneath. Release the firing grip.
3. With the muzzle pointed up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction, hand the pistol to the other Marine, grip first (see fig. 2-23 on page 60):

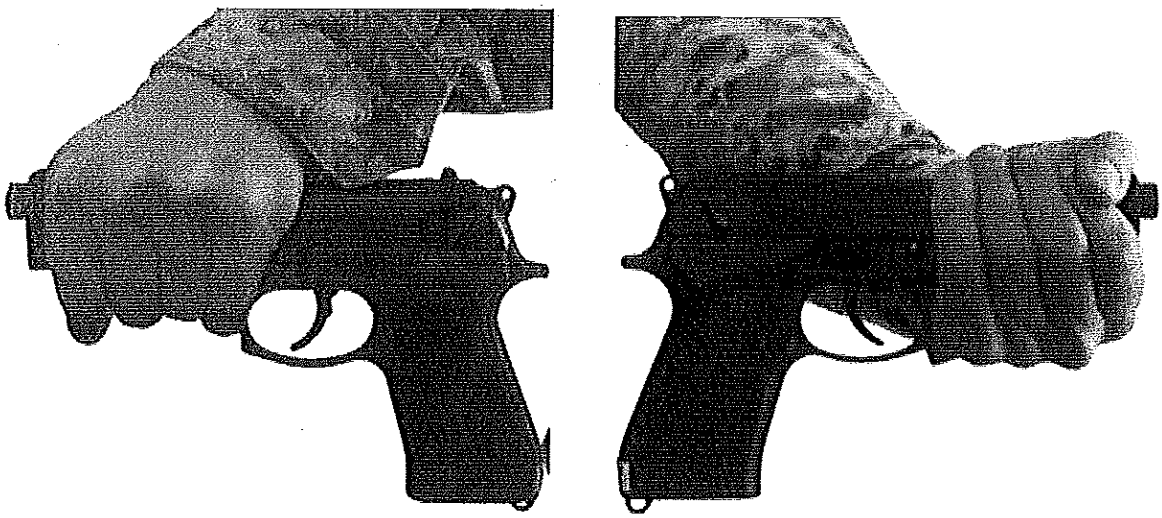


Figure 2-23. Condition Unknown Transfer.

The other Marine then grasps the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver, ensures the pistol is on safe, and conducts a chamber check to determine the condition of the weapon. If time permits, he removes the magazine and counts the number of rounds in the magazine by using the counting holes. He reinserts the magazine into the magazine well, ensuring it is fully seated.

Chapter 3
Fundamentals of Marksmanship

The fundamentals of pistol marksmanship are stability, aiming, and trigger control. These techniques provide the foundation for all marksmanship principles and skills. For pistol fire to be effective, it must be accurate. Understanding and applying the basic marksmanship fundamentals will ensure the Marine's effectiveness in threat engagements. The fundamentals must be continually studied and developed so that they may be applied instinctively and become the means by which accurate shots are placed on a threat. A Marine with a solid foundation in the fundamentals of marksmanship will have a much higher likelihood of success in combat.

Stability

Purpose of Stability

A consistent, stable position is assumed for two distinct purposes:

1. Minimize Movement of the Weapon Sights. A pistol firing position must be stabilized to minimize movement of the weapon sights so an accurate shot can be fired. A stable firing position enables the weapon's sights to be controlled to deliver accurate fire on a threat.
2. Minimize the Effects of Recoil. A pistol firing position must be stabilized to minimize the effects of recoil for recovery of the sights to the same area on the threat. In combat, it may be necessary to engage the same threat more than once to eliminate it. If the firing position is stable, the pistol sights should recover to the same area on the threat, allowing rapid re-engagement. Distributing the body's weight to balance the position will stabilize it and allow better management of recoil.

Stability of Hold

The ability to hold the pistol sights still on a designated area of a threat is considered stability of hold. A firing position must provide a stable platform for accurate and consistent shooting. If the position is solid, the sights can be held steady so sight picture can be achieved and the threat accurately engaged. Size and distance to the threat dictates how critical stability of hold must be. The smaller the threat or the longer the range to the threat requires more stability of hold. Likewise, the larger the threat or the shorter the range requires less stability of hold.

Controlled Muscular Tension

A pistol firing position is stabilized through controlled muscular tension. Because the pistol is fired without benefit of bone support, muscular tension is needed in the body to stabilize the position and the weapon sights. A consistent amount of muscular tension holds the weapon steady so the sights can be aligned with the aiming eye and the threat. Controlled and consistent tension in the body allows the Marine to offer resistance to manage recoil and bring the sights back on the threat quicker. Too much tension, however, can cause strain or produce additional movement by trembling. Muscular tension is correct when the Marine can control the pistol before, during, and after firing the shot.

Grip

A proper grip is one that provides maximum control of the pistol before, during, and after firing. A firm grip is essential for stability and good trigger control. The grip is established before applying trigger control and is maintained throughout the shot-firing process. The hand is placed

around the pistol grip in a location that allows the trigger finger to move the trigger straight to the rear while maintaining sight alignment. Once established, the grip should be firm enough to allow manipulation of the trigger while maintaining sight alignment. There must be equal to or more pressure applied to the grip than the pressure required to move the trigger to the rear. If not, the sights will move as the trigger is moved to the rear.

Breath Control

Breathing causes movement of the chest, abdomen, and shoulders, which causes the pistol sights to move vertically while attempting to aim and fire. Therefore, it is necessary to stop breathing for a period of time while firing a shot or a series of shots: just long enough to fire the shot while maintaining sight alignment, stabilizing the sights, and establishing the sight picture. Do not stop breathing for too long because it has adverse visual and physical effects. Holding the breath longer than is comfortable results in a lack of oxygen that causes vision to deteriorate and then affects the ability to focus on the sights.

Follow-Through and Recoil Management

Once a shot is fired, the pistol recoils, disturbing alignment of the sights. A proper grip must facilitate a quick recovery from recoil so the sights quickly return to the same area on the threat. The amount the muzzle climbs during recoil depends on the amount of controlled muscular tension in the grip and wrists applied to stabilize the weapon and create consistent resistance to recoil. Controlled muscular tension allows the weapon sights to recover consistently back on the threat within a minimum amount of time. Equal pressure must be applied to the grip with both hands because recoil will travel where there is least resistance and the sights will not return to the same area on the threat. Firm pressure ensures the pistol does not slip during recoil. An improper grip or lack of controlled muscular tension will cause the pistol to move in the Marine's hand after the shot is fired, disrupting sight alignment and requiring the Marine to re-establish his grip.

Trigger Reset

Once the weapon fires and the effects of recoil have ceased, the Marine should immediately relax the trigger finger enough to ensure the trigger has enough forward motion to fully reset for a subsequent shot. The Marine should experience an audible or tactile indication when the trigger has been reset before applying trigger pressure for follow-on shots.

Aiming

Sight Alignment

Sight alignment is the relationship between the front sight and rear sight with respect to the aiming eye. Correct sight alignment is the front sight centered in the rear sight notch with the top edge of the front sight level with the top edge of the rear sight. There should be equal space on either side of the front sight (see fig. 3-1 on page 63).

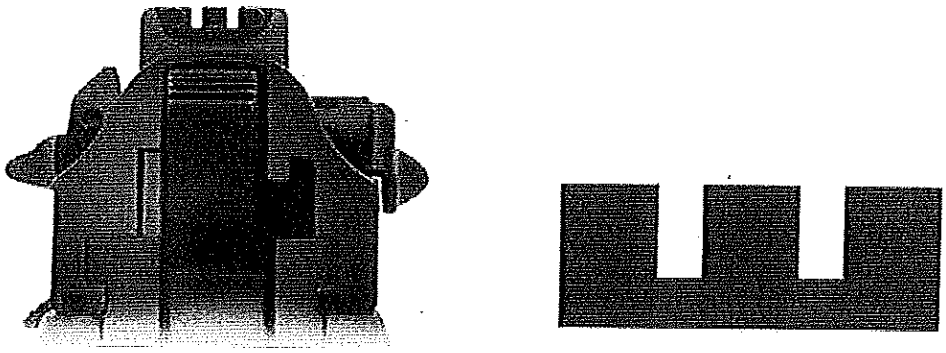


Figure 3-1. Sight Alignment.

To fire accurately, the sights must be aligned when the shot breaks. The grip is key to acquiring sight alignment. If the grip is correct, the front and rear sights should be naturally aligned. Practice firing with a Condition 4 weapon (dry firing) while in presentation will aid in obtaining a grip that will allow sight alignment to be acquired consistently. There must be enough controlled muscular tension in the grip, wrists, and forearms to hold the weapon steady and level the pistol sights to maintain sight alignment. Consistent tension allows the shooter to stabilize sights to maintain sight alignment.

Sight Picture

Sight picture is the placement of the front sight in relation to the threat while maintaining sight alignment (see fig. 3-2).

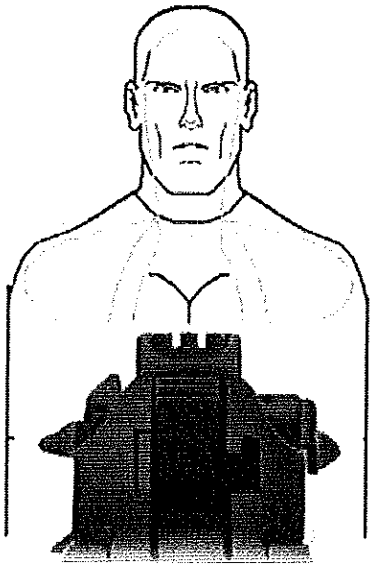


Figure 3-2. Sight Picture.

Because the pistol is constantly moving, sight picture is acquired within an aiming area center mass on the threat. Aiming area is defined as the movement of the sights on the threat while maintaining sight alignment. Each individual must define an acceptable aiming area within his own capability to stabilize the sights. Time, distance to the threat, and personal ability will dictate what this aiming area is. As you become more proficient, your aiming area will become more precise.

The aiming area is based on the individual's overall stability. A proper stance and grip will stabilize the sights so sight alignment can be maintained, but the sights will continuously move within the aiming area on the threat. The Marine must accept the movement he sees with the pistol and learn to apply trigger control as he is obtaining sight alignment/sight picture within the aiming area so the shot breaks the moment sight picture is established. Correct sight picture is the placement of the aligned sights within an acceptable aiming area.

Relationship between the Eye and the Sights

The human eye can focus clearly on only one object at a time. Depending on the type of engagement and precision required, the object of focus will change.

Precision Shot

When the size and distance to the threat require the Marine to slow down his application of the fundamentals for a precision shot, sight alignment becomes much more critical to accuracy. In these situations, the Marine must focus on the top edge of the front sight and fire the shot while maintaining the relationship between the front and rear sights within his aiming area. To achieve this focus on the front sight, the Marine may have to close his nondominant eye. Focusing on the top edge of the front sight rather than the threat will allow the Marine to detect minor variations in sight alignment. The sight should be clear and distinct, though the threat will appear blurred.

Close Range

At close ranges, speed is necessary while sight picture is not as critical for accuracy. At close ranges, there is a natural tendency to look at the threat. The Marine should shoot with both eyes open, looking at the threat. The Marine must focus on an aiming area of the threat to provide a good aiming point within that area. The threat should be clear and distinct. The sights will appear slightly blurred; the front and rear sights will appear as a single unit on the threat. The Marine's field of view allows the Marine to see the threat and maintain sight picture within his aiming area.

Natural Body Alignment

The body must be properly aligned to the threat so the sights fall naturally on the threat when the pistol is presented. It takes a combination of body alignment and consistent muscular tension to ensure the sights fall naturally to the same area of the threat every time the pistol is presented. The Marine can execute the following to check natural body alignment and to ensure the sights center on the aiming area:

- Orient the body to a threat and establish a variation of the standing position and a two-handed firing grip on the pistol. Aim in on the threat.
- Close the eyes and take a deep breath.
- Open the eyes and see where the pistol sights are in relation to the threat. If the pistol sights are right or left of the threat, move the feet to adjust the position right or left.

Note: Do not force the sights onto the threat area by moving the arms; this increases the muscular tension on one side of the body, disturbs balance, and makes recoil harder to manage.

If the sights are significantly out of alignment when the pistol is at eye level, it may be an indication of a poor grip. When the grip is correct (to include the muscular tension in the grip, wrist, and forearms), the sights should align to the point that only minor adjustments are needed to align the sights to the aiming eye.

Repeat the preceding steps as necessary. Body alignment and muscular tension are correct when the sights are naturally placed in the same area on the threat every time the Marine aims.

Offset Hold

When the Marine assesses the situation and determines his shots are not successful and not striking the threat in the designated aiming area, he may employ offset hold. Since the pistol's sights cannot be adjusted, offset hold is applied to adjust the aiming area and to cause rounds to strike center mass. This technique should only be used when the Marine determines that he is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship correctly. Sight picture will change as the aiming area is adjusted.

If a Marine determines his impacts on a threat are ineffective, he may apply offset hold to correct the strike of the round into the thoracic cavity or head. Increased distance to a threat may also require an offset hold. Employing an offset hold requires shifting the point of aim to compensate for rounds striking off threat center. To effectively engage a threat using this technique, the Marine must be able to see where the rounds are striking and then aim an equal distance from the center of the aiming area opposite the observed strike of the round. For example, if the rounds are striking the threat high and left of center mass, aim an equal and opposite distance low and right.

Trigger Control

Trigger control is the skillful manipulation of the trigger that causes the pistol to fire while maintaining sight alignment and sight picture. Proper trigger control aids in maintaining sight alignment while the shot is fired. While it is impossible to add pressure to the trigger without some movement of the weapon, such movement must be minimized by the application of correct trigger control. Controlling the trigger is a mental process while moving the trigger is a physical process.

Aiming and trigger control are mutually supportive: one cannot be performed without the other. As pressure is applied to the trigger, the sights may move, causing them to be misaligned. To be accurate, the sights must be aligned when the shot breaks. Trigger control can actually assist in aligning the sights. With proper trigger finger placement and consistent muscular tension applied to the grip, the sights can be controlled as the trigger is moved to the rear. If the sights move extensively while pressing the trigger, this is usually an indication of an improper grip or inconsistency in the muscular tension applied to the grip. Sight alignment and trigger control must be performed simultaneously to make an accurate shot.

Trigger control fundamentals may be executed faster or slower due to range to the threat, limited exposure of the threat, firing position, and experience and skill of the Marine. The speed of the trigger finger cannot disturb the sight alignment and/or firing grip.

Trigger Finger Placement

The grip should provide a foundation for the movement of the trigger finger. Once the grip is established, the finger is placed on the trigger. A Marine's trigger finger should contact the trigger naturally and must apply positive pressure on the trigger as an independent action, completely free of the other muscles of the firing hand (see fig. 3-3 on page 66). A natural trigger finger placement allows the trigger to be moved straight to the rear while maintaining sight alignment. If the finger presses the trigger to the side or there is excessive pressure on the web of the hand on the back strap of the pistol, it will interfere with the manipulation of the trigger and

can cause an error in sight alignment and shot placement. Each Marine must experiment with finger placement to select an effective placement on the trigger that allows it to be consistently moved straight to the rear while maintaining sight alignment.

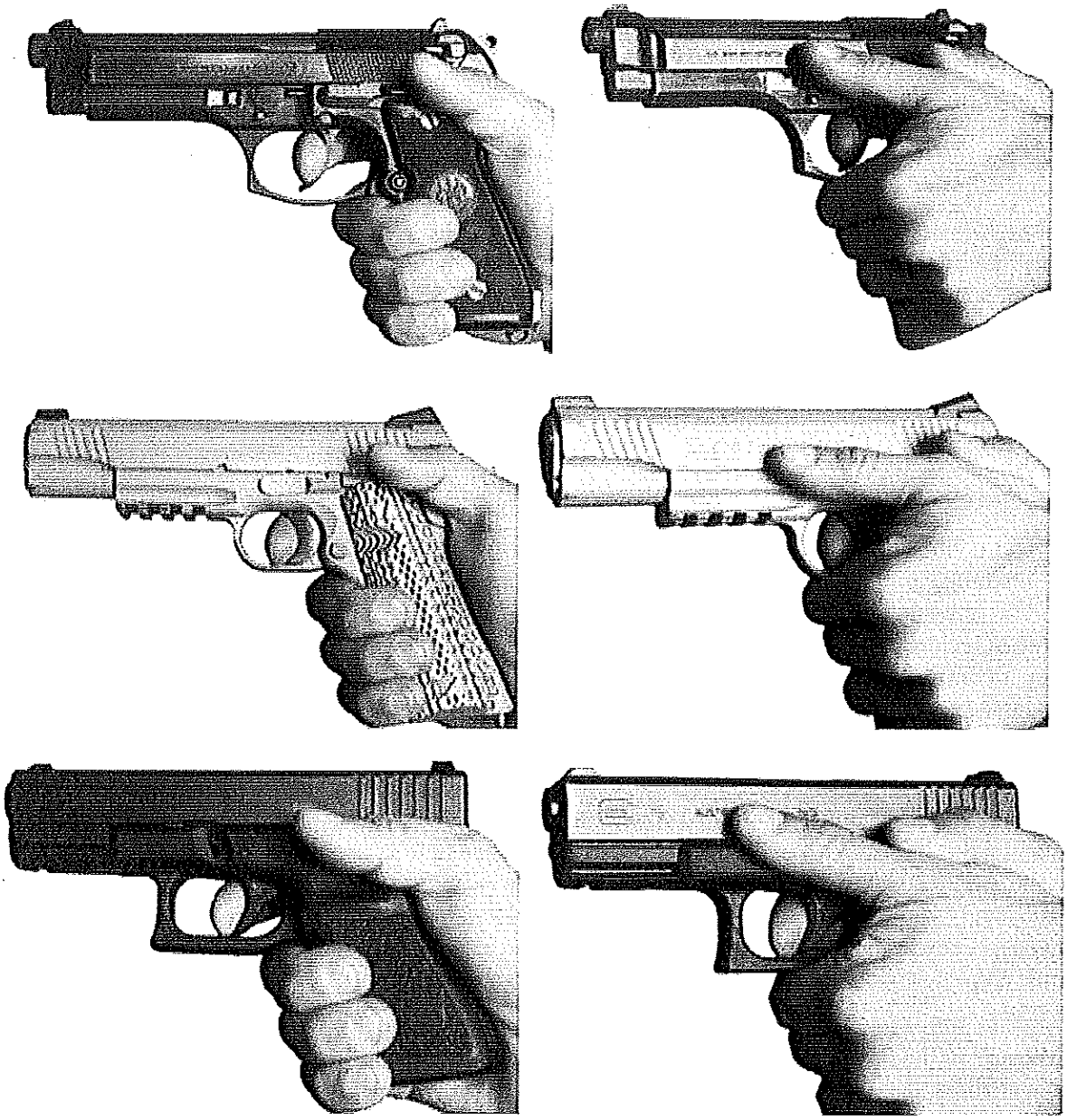


Figure 3-3. Trigger Finger Placement.

Assessing Performance

To fire an accurate shot, the pistol sights must be stabilized prior to and as the bullet exits the muzzle of the weapon. A proper grip controls the alignment of the weapon sights and stabilizes the sights so an accurate shot may be fired. To have a proper grip, there must be muscular tension in the wrist and forearms. Consistent muscular tension in the wrist, forearms, and grip helps maintain sight alignment by reducing the movement in the grip, which can cause

movement in the weapon sights. The grip is correct when it allows the pistol sights to be naturally aligned to the aiming eye. When establishing a two-handed grip, equal pressure must be applied with both hands. Consistent, equal pressure from both hands will stabilize the weapon sights and allow them to be aligned and level with respect to the aiming eye.

Calling the Shot

Calling the shot is noting where on the threat the sights were when the round was fired. During engagement, the Marine should make a mental note of the sight picture when the shot breaks. Calling the shot, combined with visual feedback of shot placement (or effects on the threat) provides information necessary to refine or adjust follow-on shots. This ultimately ensures performance of fundamentals, resulting in the desired end state.

Chapter 4
Pistol Presentation and Positions

The Marine must select and assume a stable firing position that provides a solid foundation for accurate shooting while meeting the demands of the combat situation. Marines can fire the service pistol from the standing, kneeling, squatting, and prone positions.

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions as needed.

Selection of a Pistol Firing Position

The selection of a firing position in combat is based on considerations of stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy.

Stability

A solid firing position establishes a stable foundation for threat engagement. A firing position must provide maximum stability while firing. If the Marine's position is not stable, recoil will force him out of his firing position, requiring him to re-establish his position before he takes his next shot.

Mobility

A firing position must provide mobility should the Marine need to move. For example, the standing position permits maximum mobility because it can be assumed and maneuvered from quickly and easily. It also permits lateral mobility to engage widely dispersed threats. The prone position provides limited mobility because it is the most time consuming position to get into and out of and it lacks lateral mobility to engage dispersed threats.

Observation of the Enemy

A firing position should allow observation of the enemy while minimizing the Marine's exposure. In combat, there can be many obstructions to a clear field of view. Terrain features such as vegetation, earth contours, and man-made structures can often dictate the firing position. For example, the prone position normally allows the least exposure, but it usually provides a limited field of view. Kneeling may provide a wider field of view, but generally provides less concealment.

Isosceles Position

The isosceles position is used to establish a solid position and maximize control of the weapon. It permits balance, control, and stability during firing. Marines should know that the application of the firing position variation is the same whether in the standing, kneeling, squatting, or prone position. The isosceles position provides the most manageable recoil of the weapon whether the Marine is firing in the standing, kneeling, squatting, or prone position. It is effective at any distance; however, some aspects of the position make it more effective for close range engagements. When confronted with a threat, the natural physical reaction is to face the threat and push out with the arms. This makes the isosceles position advantageous for quick engagements at close range.

Advantages/Disadvantages of the Isosceles Position

The size of the threat, distance to the threat, time, and type of engagement needed (e.g., two

shots vice a single precision shot) are important factors to consider when firing in the isosceles position.

Short-Range Engagement. When a threat is at short range, it must be engaged quickly before it engages the Marine. The management of recoil is a bigger factor in short-range engagements because it is more likely that multiple shots will be fired to eliminate the threat and the sights have to recover quickly back on the threat. However, at close ranges the threat is larger so stability of hold is not as important because it is easier to hold the sights on the threat and sight picture is not as critical.

Advantage: Management of Recoil. In the isosceles position, muscular tension and grip pressure are evenly distributed around the pistol, causing the effects of recoil to be more manageable allowing quicker recovery of the sights on the threat. This makes the isosceles position effective for firing multiple shots.

Disadvantage: Stability of Hold. The stability of hold is degraded in the isosceles position due to the weapon being further from the body without support. This makes acquiring sight picture more difficult because it is harder to steady the weapon. This factor may make the isosceles position less effective at long ranges and for precision shots on a small threat.

Pistol Presentation

In combat, threats present themselves with little or no warning. To successfully engage a combat threat with any Marine Corps-issued pistol, the Marine must master pistol presentation from the ready, when in transport, while assuming various firing positions, and when using search and assess techniques.

Presentation from the Ready

To present the pistol from the ready, perform the following steps in sequence (see fig. 4-1) in one smooth, fluid movement. When a threat appears:

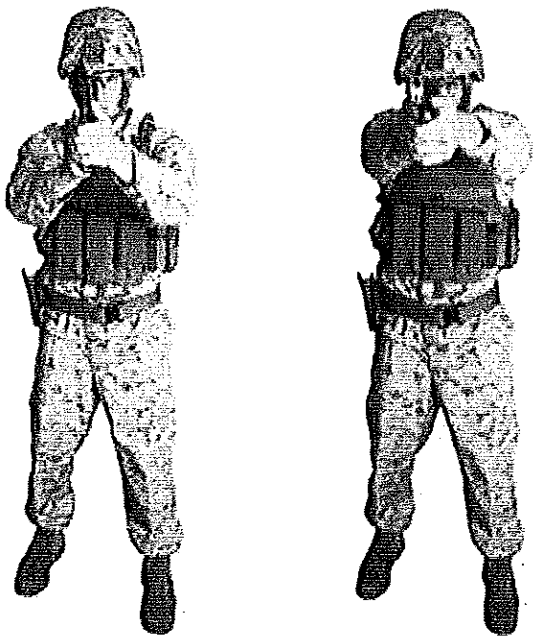


Figure 4-1. Presentation from the Ready.

1. Deactivate the safety while establishing the firing grip, immediately place the finger on the trigger to take up the trigger slack.

Note: For the M9, sweep the decocking/safety lever with the support thumb, ending in the firing grip.

Note: For the M45A1, move the ambidextrous safety down to disengage the ambidextrous safety with the firing thumb by laying it on top of the paddle and applying pressure downwards, ending in the firing grip.

Note: For the Glock 19, there are no external safeties to disengage. Place thumbs immediately into the firing grip.

2. Start to extend the arms forward to the threat while continuing trigger press.
3. Pick up the front sight. While extending the arms, level the rear sight with the front sight to acquire sight picture. As the pistol is presented, shift the focus from the threat to the front sight to obtain sight alignment. As the front sight breaks the plane of vision, acquire the front sight and begin to apply trigger control as sight picture is acquired.
4. Continue trigger press throughout the presentation. Ideally, the shot breaks the moment full presentation and sight picture are achieved.

Presentation from the Holster

To present the pistol from the holster, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Place the heel of the support hand in front of the center of the chest with the fingers pointing downrange. The hand should be in a position that allows a two-handed firing grip to be established in a minimum amount of movement. At the same time, release the weapon retention device by pressing the release button with the index finger of the firing hand.

Note: For M45A1 holster, disengage the holster bail by pushing down on the release catch and rotating the bail forward.

Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers; the index finger remains straight and outside the holster (see fig. 4-2 on page 71).

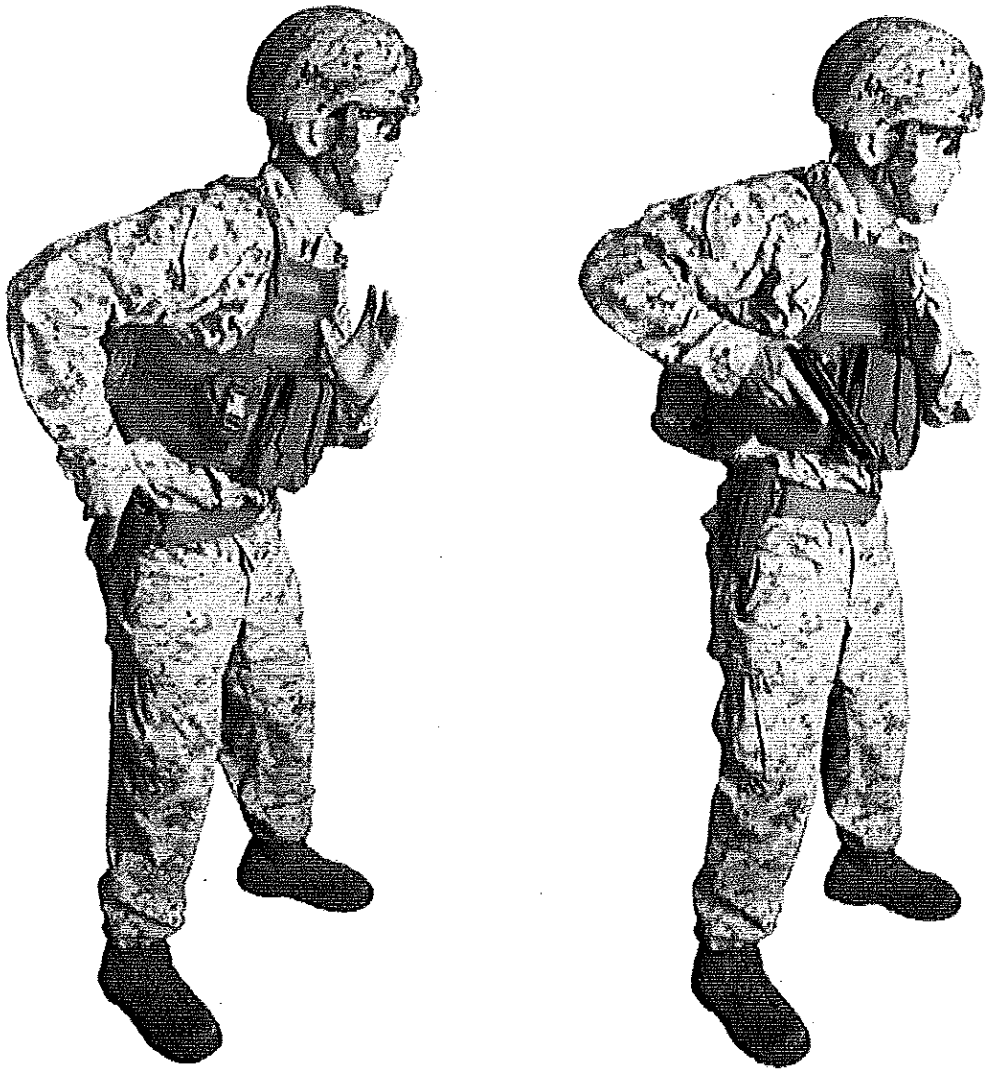


Figure 4-2. Steps One and Two of Presentation from the Holster.

2. Draw the pistol straight up out of the holster. Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward to clear the body by dropping the elbow of the firing arm (see fig. 4-2). Ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction. Deactivate the safety with the firing thumb.
3. Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining it with the support hand in front of the torso (see fig. 4-3 on page 72). If you were not able to deactivate the safety, do so with the support thumb. Roll the thumbs forward; the support thumb points forward and the firing thumb rests on top of it.

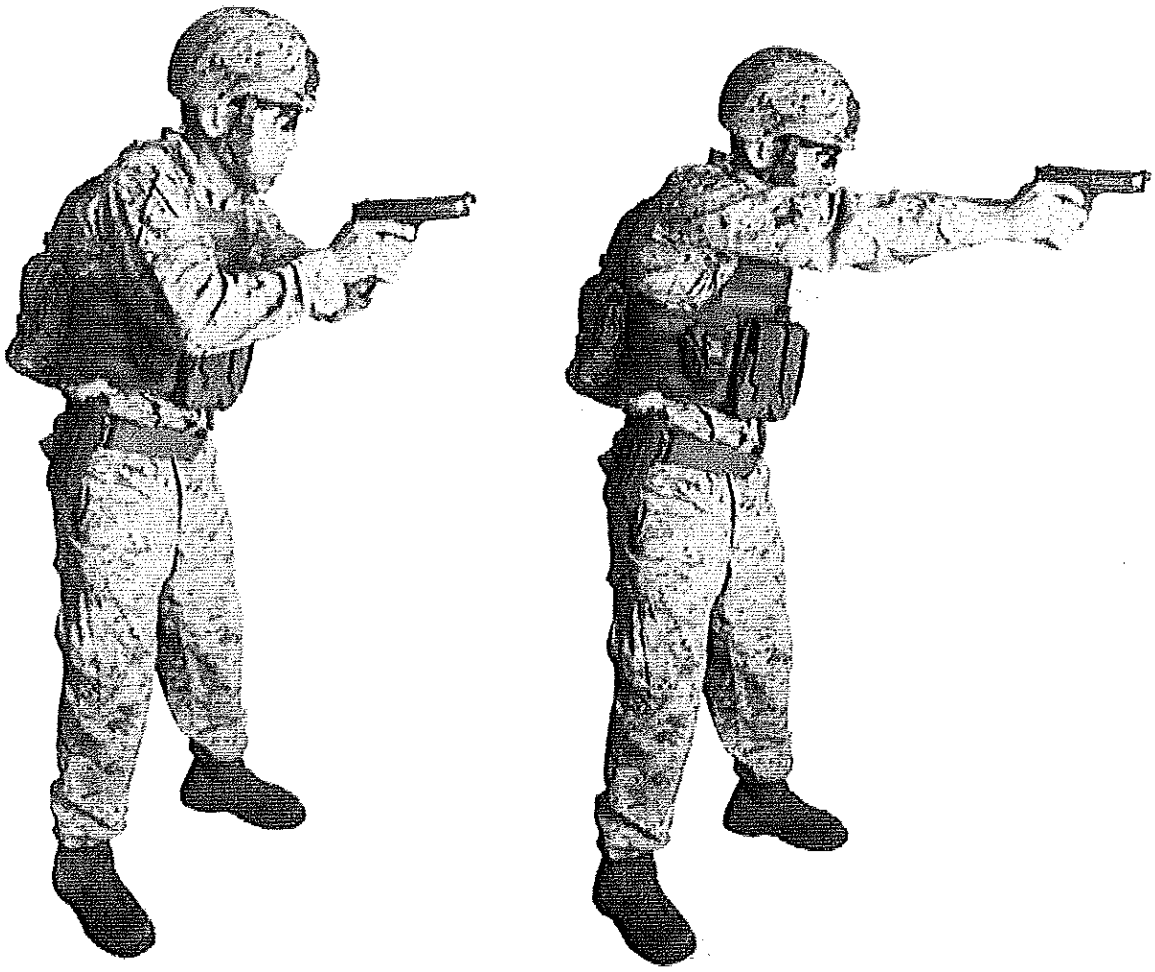


Figure 4-3. Steps Three and Four of Presentation from the Holster.

CAUTION

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the support hand when establishing the two-handed grip.

4. Start to extend the weapon out toward the threat by extending the arms and rolling the front sight to the threat. Continue extending the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, applying trigger pressure. As the arms are extended, level the rear sight with the front sight, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired (see fig. 4-3). Ideally, the shot breaks the moment full presentation and sight picture are achieved.

Presentation from the Chest Rig

To present the pistol from a chest rig, perform the following steps in sequence (see fig. 4-4 on page 73):

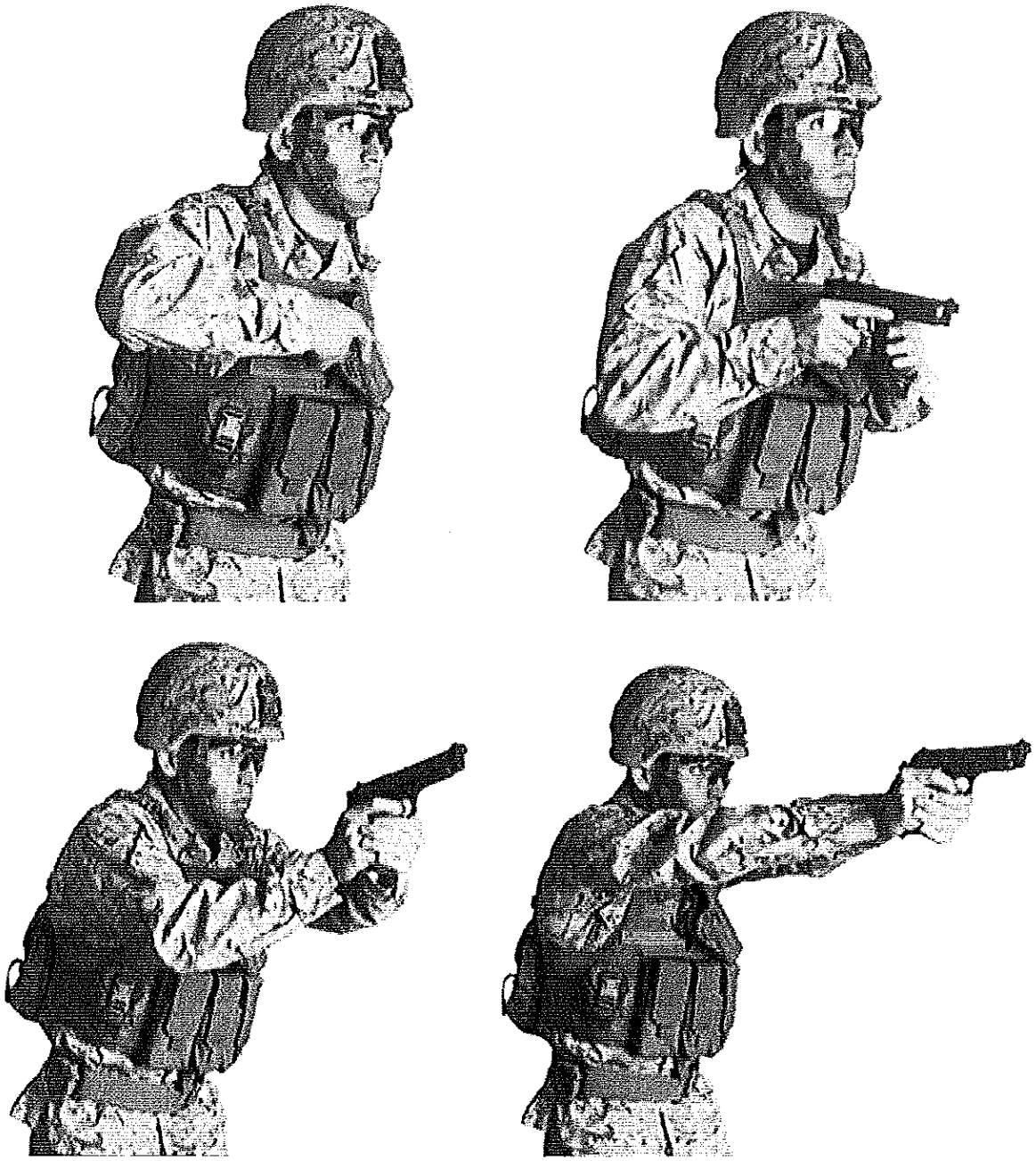


Figure 4-4. Presentation from a Chest Rig.

1. Release the weapon retention device by pressing the release button with the index finger of the firing hand. Place the support hand flat against the torso to remain clear of the muzzle.
2. Draw the pistol out of the holster. Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle toward the threat. Deactivate the safety with the firing thumb.
3. Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining it with the support hand in front of the torso. If you were not able to deactivate the safety, do so with the support thumb. Roll the thumbs forward; the support thumb points forward and the firing thumb rests on top

of it.

4. Start to extend the weapon out toward the threat by extending the arms and rolling the front sight to the threat. Continue extending the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, applying trigger pressure. As the arms are extended, level the rear sight with the front sight, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired. Ideally, the shot breaks the moment full presentation and sight picture are achieved.

WARNING

Ensure body parts or other personnel are clear of the muzzle when drawing or holstering the pistol.

Presentation from Concealed Carry

Depending on the clothing worn by the Marine, there are two methods for accessing the concealed pistol holster so that the clothing does not become an obstruction while presenting the pistol. To present the pistol from the concealed pistol holster, the following steps are performed in one continuous motion when the threat appears.

If the Marine is wearing a short jacket/sweater (waist-level) that is buttoned or zipped—

1. Move the support hand across the body and grasp the jacket or sweater just above the holster, at the same time place the firing hand on the holster below the jacket or sweater (see fig. 4-5).
2. Pull up on the jacket or sweater with the support hand. At the same time, slide the firing hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. Keep the thumb above the pistol to ensure the jacket or sweater clears the pistol (see fig. 4-5 on page 75).

Note: Leaning slightly forward at the waist may assist in clearing the jacket or sweater from the pistol and in removing the pistol from the holster.

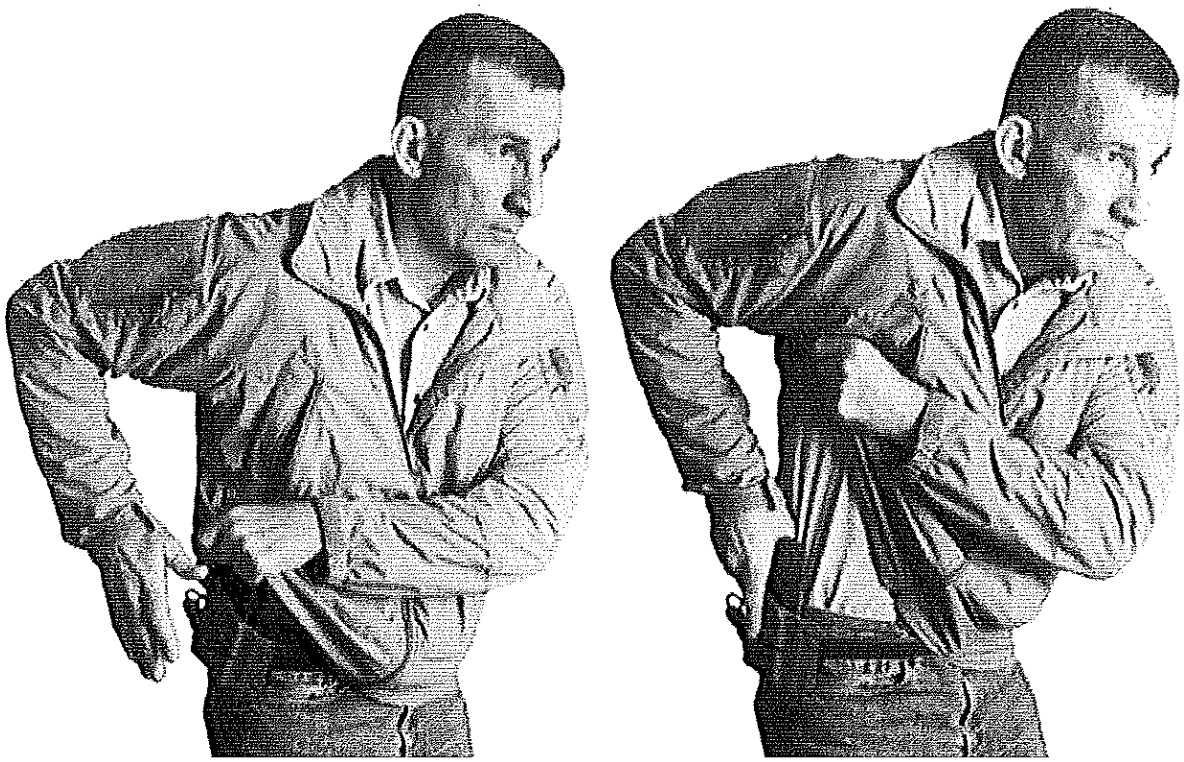


Figure 4-5. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster – Steps One and Two.

If the Marine is wearing a long jacket (below waist-level), or a short jacket or sweater that is unfastened—

1. Place the heel of the support hand at the center of the torso with the fingers extended to hold the left side of the jacket down. At the same time, place the firing hand on the right side of the jacket, with the thumb underneath the right side of the jacket below the support hand (see fig. 4-6 on page 76).
2. Keep thumb of the firing hand against the body and throw the jacket back and away from the holster (see fig. 4-6 on page 76). Place the firing hand on the holster and slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip.

Note: Keeping a weighted object (e.g., keys, extra magazine) in the right-hand pocket of the jacket assists in throwing the jacket back and away from the holster.

Figure 4-6. Presentation from the Concealed Holster with the Long Jacket – Steps One and Two.

3. Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the pistol while moving the thumb to a position on the safety.

Note: Hand placement should allow the firing grip to be established once the thumb deactivates the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is deactivated should be minor.

4. Rotate the muzzle forward once it clears the holster while deactivating the safety.
5. Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the support hand with the firing hand in front of the torso. At the same time, start to extend the pistol out toward the threat.

Standing Position

The standing position is often employed in pistol engagements due to the short distance of engagement and the nature of combat. When properly assumed, the standing position provides a stable base for firing, a clear field of view, and excellent mobility.

Assuming the Isosceles Standing Position

Key to the isosceles variation is the body squared to the threat and equal pressure applied on the pistol from the grip. To assume the isosceles standing position:

1. Face the threat with the feet approximately shoulder width apart. The shoulders are squared to the threat.
2. Establish a two-handed firing grip in the isosceles position (see fig. 4-7 o page 77):
   - Firmly grip the pistol with the firing hand on the pistol grip. Place the firing hand thumb

on the safety in a position to operate it.

- Place the heel of the firing hand on the exposed portion of the pistol grip in the pocket formed by the fingertips and heel of the firing hand. There should be maximum contact between the pistol grip and the hands. Wrap the fingers of the support hand over the fingers of the firing hand. Ensure both thumbs rest on the left side of the pistol and point toward the threat.
- Apply equal pressure on both sides of the pistol to allow for the best management of recoil.

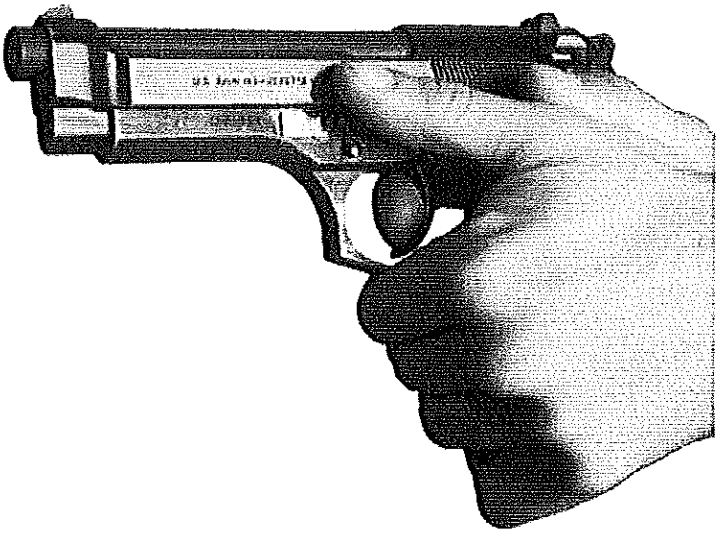


Figure 4-7. Isosceles Grip.

Note: Ensure the thumb of the support hand does not apply excessive pressure to the slide stop or the slide.

3. Rest the trigger finger naturally, straight and outside of the trigger guard, so the finger can be moved quickly and easily to the trigger.

Note: The index finger of the support hand may or may not rest on the front of the trigger guard.

4. Elevate and extend the arms toward the threat.
5. Roll the shoulders forward and shift the body weight slightly forward to stabilize the position and better manage recoil. There should be an equal amount of muscular tension on both sides of the body to best manage recoil.
6. The head is extended forward but kept erect so the aiming eye can see through the sights (see fig. 4-8 on page 78).

Figure 4-8. Isosceles Standing Position.

Supported Standing Position

When use of the support is maximized, the supported standing position (see fig. 4-9 on page 79) can be as stable as the supported kneeling or prone position. It provides greater mobility than the other positions and usually greater observation of the enemy. In the standing position, the Marine must not telegraph his position behind the cover with his foot.

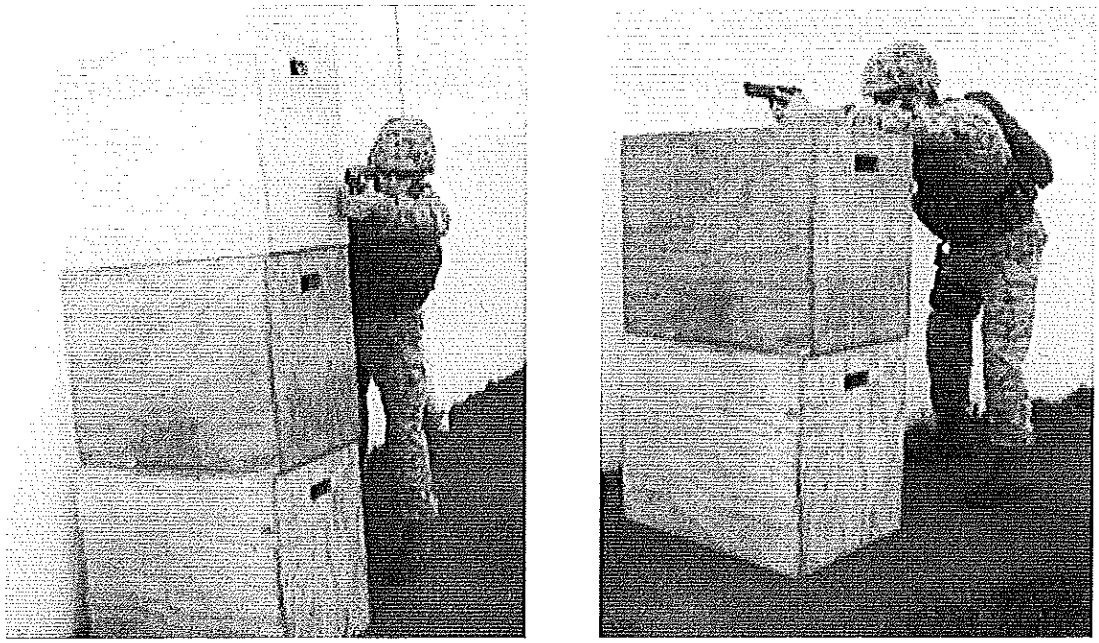


Figure 4-9. Supported Standing Position.

Presentation While Assuming the Kneeling Position

The kneeling position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide a more stable base for shooting. In combat, the Marine must be able to quickly assume the kneeling position while presenting the weapon to bear on the threat.

From the Standing Ready

When a threat appears, drop to a kneeling position while extending the arms toward the threat. At the same time, deactivate the safety with the thumb of the firing or support hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

From the Standing Holster Carry

When a threat appears, withdraw the pistol from the holster while dropping to the kneeling position. Take care not to cover your leg with the weapon while kneeling. The weapon should be rotated to the threat by the time the knee hits the deck. Then, deactivate the safety with the thumb of the firing hand, and establish a two-handed firing grip while presenting the weapon toward the threat. If you were not able to deactivate the safety, do so with the support thumb. Roll the thumbs forward; the support thumb points forward and the firing thumb rests on top of it. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

Kneeling Position

The kneeling position offers a smaller exposure than the standing position and greater stability, which makes it effective for longer range shooting. It does not offer as much mobility for quick reaction as the standing position, but it can be assumed quickly and it enables firing from various types of cover. There are three variations of the kneeling position that offer varying degrees of observation of the enemy. The isosceles position may be adapted to a high kneeling, a medium kneeling, or a two-kneed kneeling position.

Isosceles Kneeling Position

To assume the isosceles kneeling position (see fig. 4-10), follow these steps:

Figure 4-10. Isosceles Kneeling Position.

1. Step forward with the support foot, and place the firing-side knee on the deck. If firing from a two-kneed position, drop forward onto both knees squaring the shoulders to the threat.
2. Extend the arms toward the threat using an isosceles grip. The elbows face outboard with the arms slightly bent to absorb recoil. Rest the trigger finger naturally, straight and outside of the trigger guard, so the finger can be moved quickly and easily to the trigger.
3. Roll the shoulders forward and shift the body weight slightly forward to stabilize the position and better manage recoil. There should be an equal amount of muscular tension on both sides of the body to best manage recoil. Lean forward with the shoulders rolled forward and the head tucked between the shoulders to better manage recoil. The head is extended forward but kept erect so the aiming eye can see through the sights.

One-kneed Kneeling Position

Depending on the need for observation and available cover, the one-kneed position may be adapted into a high or medium kneeling position.

High Kneeling

The following are the steps to assume the high kneeling variation:

1. The toes of the firing-side foot are curled and the pad of the foot is in contact with the deck (see fig. 4-11 on page 81).
2. Depending on the need for observation, the buttocks may or may not rest on the right heel. Contact with the heel provides more stability to the position; however, it is not mandatory that the buttocks make contact.
3. The support leg is bent at the knee. To provide a wider base of support, slide your firing-side knee and support foot outboard to form a tripod with your firing-side foot. The shin

is straight up and down; the support foot is flat on the deck.

Figure 4-11. High Kneeling Position.

Medium Kneeling

To assume the medium kneeling variation, the right ankle is straight with the top of the foot stretched out and the bootlaces in contact with the deck (see fig. 4-12). The support leg is bent at the knee; the support foot is flat on the deck. The firing-side shin may be angled to the body to create a tripod of support for the position.

Figure 4-12. Medium Kneeling Position.

Speed Kneeling Position

Speed kneeling, a two-kneed kneeling position, is the fastest kneeling position to assume and

gives the Marine additional stability for firing and lateral lean. As both knees are on the ground, it will be easy to lean to either the firing or support side without gear interference, as well as forward and backward to raise or lower the Marine's silhouette. To assume the speed kneeling position, lower into a squatting position and roll forward allowing the knees to make simultaneous contact with the ground (see fig. 4-13).

WARNING

Do not drop straight down onto the knees as this may cause injury.

The toes may be curled to get into and out of the position quickly. Depending on the need for observation of the enemy, the buttocks may or may not rest on the heels.

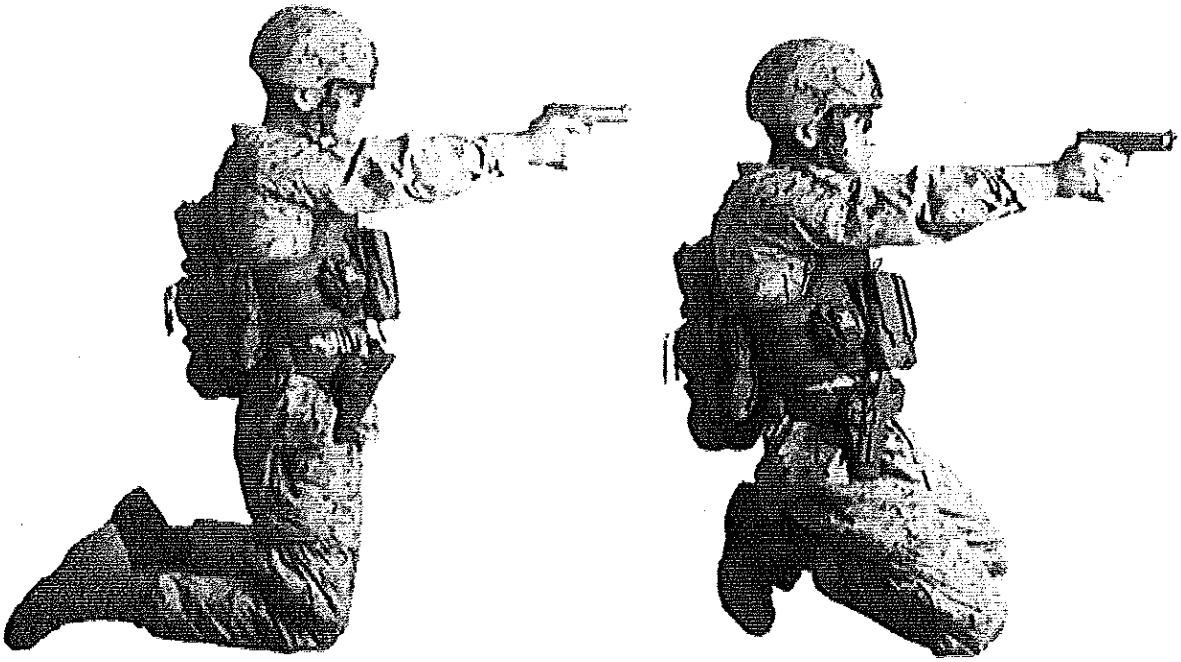


Figure 4-13. Speed Kneeling Position.

Supported Kneeling Position

When the prone position cannot be used because of the height of the support, the supported kneeling position may be appropriate (see fig. 4-14 on page 83). The kneeling position allows shooting from all sides and from cover of varying sizes. This position may be altered to maximize the use of cover or support by assuming a variation of the kneeling position (high, medium, or two-kneed). The kneeling position provides additional mobility over the prone position. In the kneeling position, the Marine must not telegraph his position behind the cover with his knee. For example, to fire from the left side of the cover, the Marine may change knees. Remember that any part of the body that is exposed presents a target.

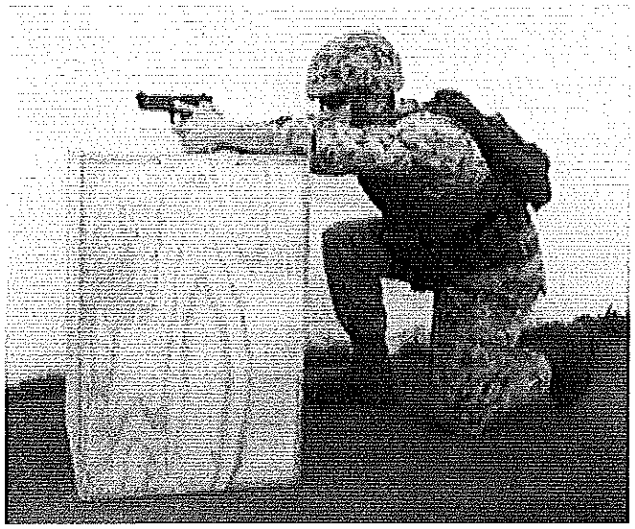


Figure 4-14. Supported Kneeling Position.

Presentation While Assuming the Squatting Position

Like the kneeling position, the squatting position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide a more stable base for shooting. In combat, the Marine must be able to quickly assume the squatting position while presenting the weapon to bear on the threat.

From the Standing Ready

When a threat appears, drop to a squatting position while extending the arms toward the threat. At the same time, deactivate the safety with the thumb of the firing or support hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

From the Standing Holster Carry

When a threat appears, withdraw the pistol from the holster while dropping to the squatting position. Take care not to cover your leg with the weapon while squatting. The weapon should be rotated to the threat by the time the full squatting position is achieved. Then, deactivate the safety with the thumb of the firing hand, and establish a two-handed firing grip while presenting the weapon toward the threat. If you were not able to deactivate the safety, do so with the support thumb. Roll the thumbs forward; the support thumb points forward and the firing thumb rests on top of it. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

Squatting Position

The squatting position is very easy and quick to assume. It is a supported position that not only enables instant profile lowering just like speed kneeling, but it also provides support (see fig. 4-15 on page 84). The support elbow rests on the support knee, and some Marines are able to achieve support with both elbows. To assume the squatting position, step slightly forward and inboard with the support-side foot angling the body at about 30 to 45 degrees relative to the threat. Drop the buttocks to meet the calves and simultaneously achieve support with the support elbow on the support knee, or both elbows on both knees if possible. The feet should be flat on the ground, with weight forward for recoil management.

Figure 4-15. Squatting Position.

Presentation While Assuming the Prone Position

The prone position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide additional stability for shooting. To present the pistol while assuming the prone position from the standing holster carry, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. When a threat appears, withdraw the weapon from the holster. At the same time, get the body on the deck by either the kick back method or the drop forward method (see pages 86-88).
2. Deactivate the safety with the firing thumb.
3. Establish a two-handed firing grip while adjusting the legs (if the safety was not swept, sweep it with the support thumb when the hands are joined):
   - In the cocked leg position, bring the support knee up and place the support elbow on the deck for stability, if possible.
   - In the straight leg position, spread the legs a comfortable distance apart for stability.
4. Place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

Prone Position

The prone position offers several advantages: it is easily assumed and stable and it presents a small target to the enemy. Since the prone position places most of the body on the deck, it offers great stability for long range shooting. However, it is the least mobile of the firing positions and may restrict the field of view for observation. There are four variations of the prone position that provide varying degrees of observation of the enemy. Depending on the cover and the need for observation, the prone position may be adapted to a standard prone (either straight or cocked leg versions), a rollover prone, a side prone, or a supine prone with two situational variations.

Straight Leg Standard Prone Position

The straight leg prone position may be difficult or impossible to assume while wearing body armor/gear, unless when firing from an upward slope or over the top of cover. Follow these steps to assume the straight leg prone position (see fig. 4-16 on page 85):

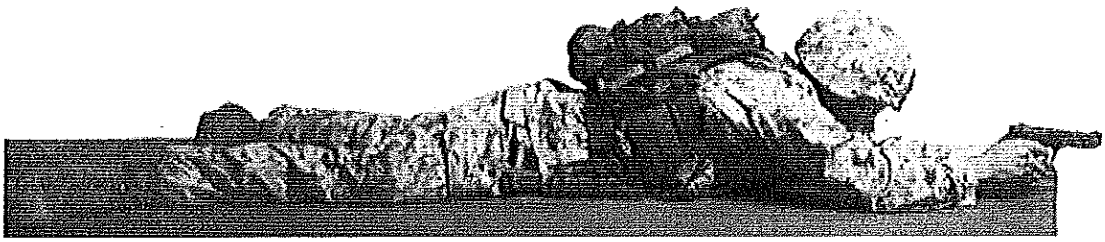


Figure 4-16. Straight Leg Standard Prone Position.

1. Stand facing the threat. Grip the pistol in the firing hand, placing the pistol in a position that facilitates control of the weapon. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and does not cover any portion of the body.
2. Get the body to the deck by using either the kick back or drop forward method.
   a. Kick Back Method. Drop to a squat or the knee(s) and place the support hand on the deck (see fig. 4-17). Kick both feet backward and come down on the right side of the body with the firing arm extended toward the threat (see figs.4-18 and 4-19 on page 86). Ensure the pistol does not cover the body or the support hand.

Figure 4-17. Step One of Kick Back Method to Prone.

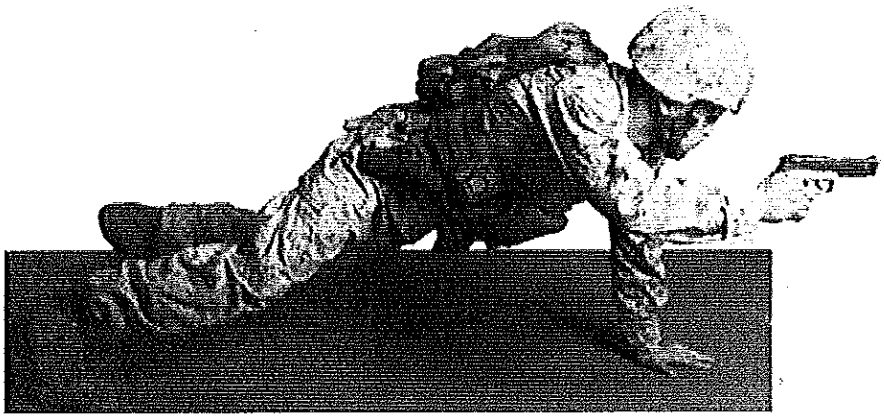


Figure 4-18. Step Two of Kick Back Method to Prone.

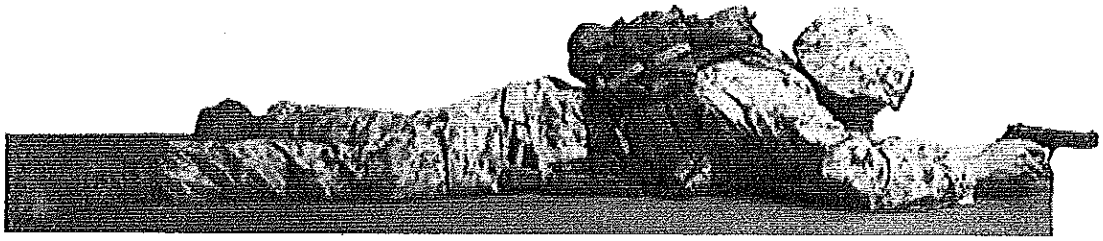
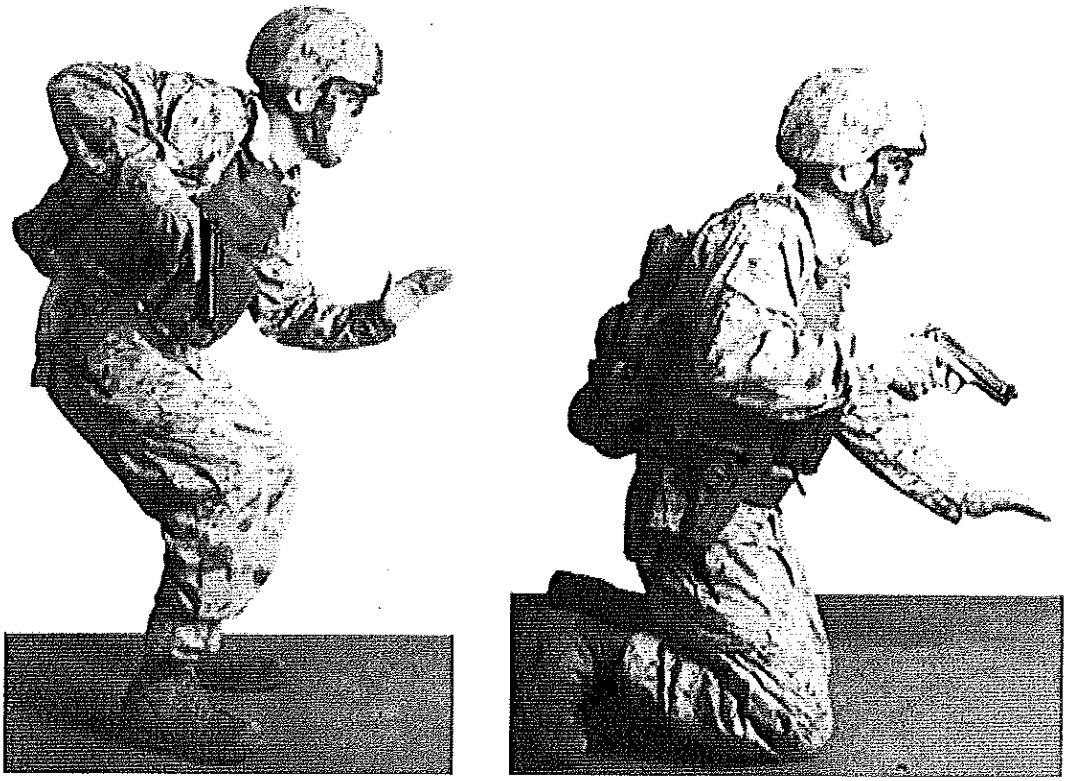


Figure 4-19. Step Three of Kick Back Method to Prone.

b. Drop Forward Method. Drop to a kneeling position, place the support hand on the deck in front of the body, and push the pistol out toward the threat (see fig.4-20). Roll onto the right side of the body on the ground. Ensure the pistol does not cover the body or the support hand (see fig. 4-21 on page 87).



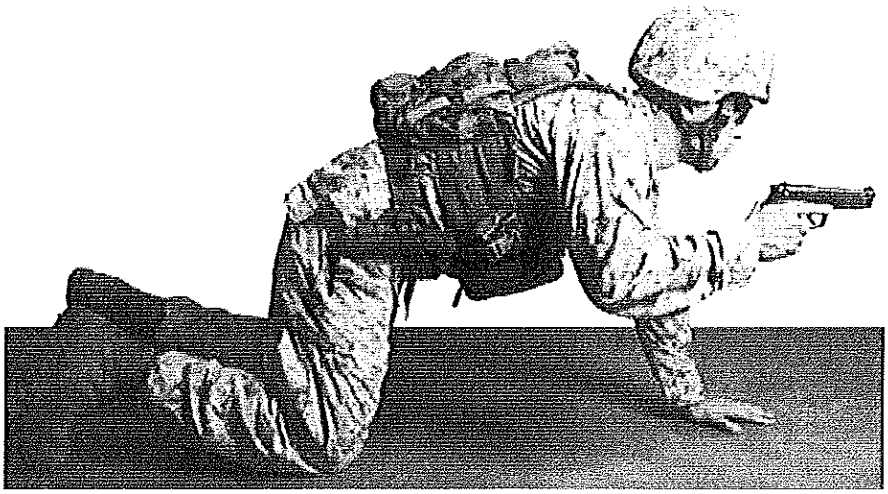


Figure 4-20. Drop Forward Method to Prone.

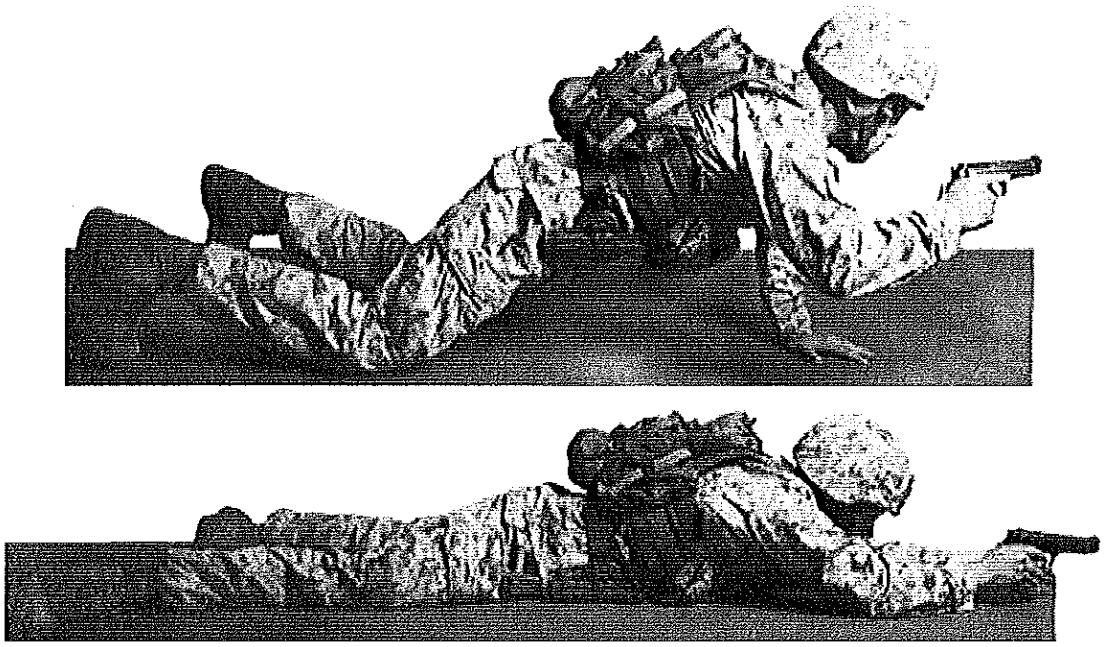


Figure 4-21. Drop Forward Method to Prone (cont.).

3. Establish a two-handed firing grip on the pistol. For maximum stability in the prone position, strive to keep the forearms and grip firmly placed on the deck. If wearing body armor/gear, this position may be used to fire over the top of cover; the arms and grip will not rest on the deck without some form of raised cover.
4. Spread the legs to a position that provides maximum stability. The insteps of both feet may be flat on the deck or the toes may be curled and dug into the deck.
5. Keep the pistol sights as level as possible while acquiring sight alignment.

a. Keep the head in a position to allow the aiming eye to look directly through the sights.
b. When wearing a helmet, the head may be canted slightly and rest against the firing arm to push the helmet from the eyes so the sights can be aligned.
c. Likewise, the weapon may be canted outboard to allow the aiming eye to look directly through the sights.

Looking through the sights of the pistol can be difficult while in the prone position. Some of the reasons may include target height, physical capabilities of the Marine, and terrain and barricades. An alternate grip while in the prone position is the golf club grip. For this grip the Marine will make a fist with the support hand and place it on the ground with the pinky finger of the firing hand intertwined between the index and middle fingers of the support firing hand, thus allowing the firing hand to rest on top of the support firing hand (see fig. 4-22).

Figure 4-22. Golf Club Grip for Prone Position.

Cocked Leg Standard Prone Position

The cocked leg variation of the prone position produces an oblique position by angling the body to the threat and cocking the leg to support the position. The cocked leg prone is ideal for firing from behind cover. The position further accommodates body armor/gear. To assume the cocked leg prone position (see fig. 4-23 on page 89), follow these steps:

Figure 4-23. Cocked Leg Standard Prone Position.

1. Face the threat and make a half turn to the right (this places the body at a 40- to 60-degree angle oblique to the threat). Grip the pistol in the firing hand, placing the pistol in a position that facilitates control of the weapon. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and does not cover any portion of the body.
2. Get the body on the deck by using either the kick back or drop forward method. In both methods, keep the body 40- to 60- degrees oblique to the threat.
3. Bring the support knee up to support the firing position and to raise the diaphragm off the deck so as not to interfere with breathing. The inside of the knee rests on the deck. The knee should be drawn up to provide maximum stability for the position.
4. Establish a two handed-firing grip on the pistol.
5. Extend the firing arm on the ground while bending the support elbow. If possible, place the support elbow on the ground for stability.
    a. The palm of the support hand may be rotated over the front of the firing hand, under the trigger guard, to accommodate the bend in the elbow. A portion of the pistol grip is exposed.
    b. The head may rest against the firing arm so the pistol sights can be aligned. The head may be canted as long as the aiming eye can look directly through the sights. Strive to keep the pistol sights as level as possible while acquiring sight alignment.

Rollover Prone Position

When a Marine cannot assume the standard prone or needs to shoot out from the side of a barricade, the rollover prone is a suitable firing position. To assume the rollover prone position from a standard prone position, the Marines cocks one leg up and rolls to the side of the body opposite the cocked leg. The cocked leg needs to be the top leg in order to help stabilize a shooting platform. Once the Marine is on his side, the head should rest on the bicep closest to the ground and sight alignment so sight picture can be established. Elevation of the sights can be achieved by raising the forearms to establish a higher site picture (see fig. 4-24 on page 90).

Figure 4-24. Rollover Prone Position.

Side Prone Position

Based upon circumstances or cover available, the side prone is a suitable firing position when a Marine needs engage a threat from a prone position while keeping his body perpendicular to the threat. Follow these steps to assume the side prone position:

1. Face the threat, dropping into a squatting position while placing the support hand on the ground.
2. Rotate the knees 45 degrees toward the firing side and drop them to the ground (see fig. 4-25). Grip the pistol in the firing hand, placing the pistol in a position that facilitates control of the weapon. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and does not cover any portion of the body.

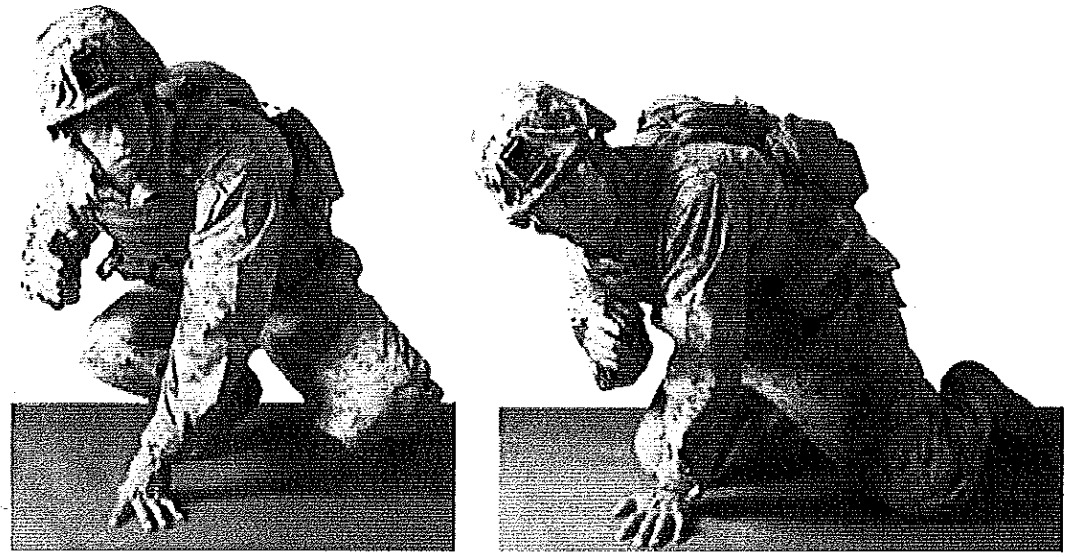


Figure 4-25. Steps One and Two of Side Prone Position.

3. Get the body on the deck by kicking the legs out to the side. Keep the body at 45 to 70 degrees oblique to the threat.
4. Bring the support knee up to support the firing position and to raise the diaphragm off the

deck so as not to interfere with breathing. The inside of the knee rests on the deck. Draw the knee up to provide maximum stability for the position (see fig. 4-26).

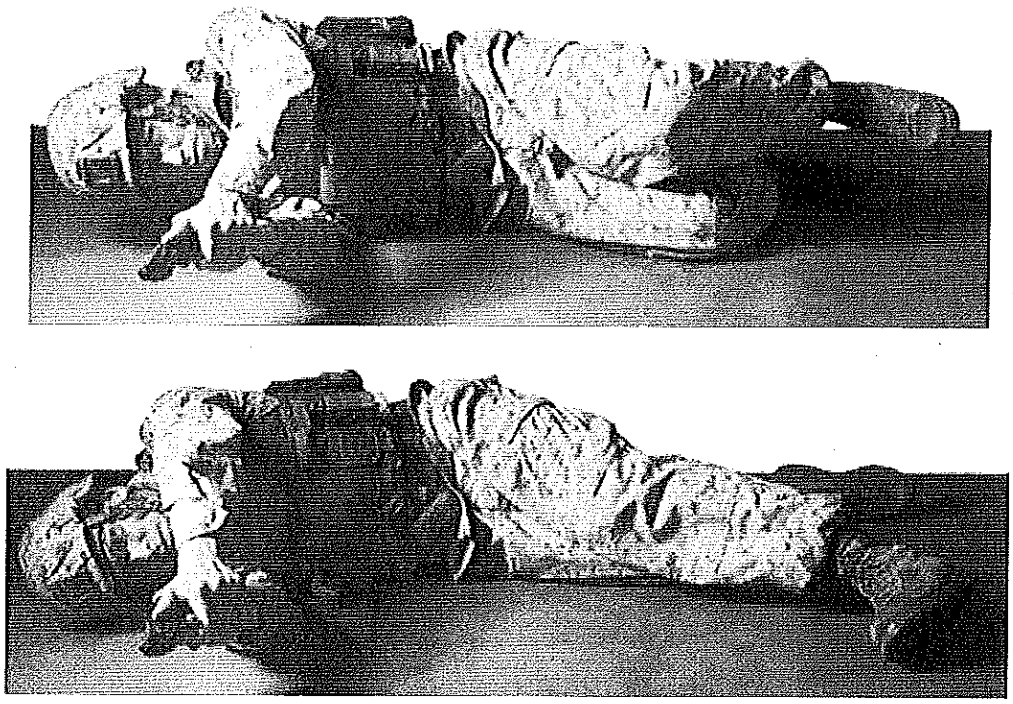


Figure 4-26. Steps Three and Four of Side Prone Position.

5. Establish a two handed-firing grip on the pistol.
6. Extend the firing arm on the ground while bending the support elbow. The head may rest against the firing arm so the pistol sights can be aligned. The head may be canted as long as the aiming eye can look directly through the sights. Strive to keep the pistol sights as level as possible while acquiring sight alignment.

Supine Prone Position

There may be situations when a Marine must engage with a pistol while lying on his back such as after being physically knocked backward during a close proximity engagement or from behind a small area of cover.

Back

If a Marine is on his back and needs to immediately engage a threat, he should assume the supine prone firing position. Follow these steps to assume the supine prone position from the back:

1. Roll over slightly onto the support side making it easier to draw the pistol from the holster.
2. Withdraw the pistol from the holster and sweep it around the leg and up and over the knee establishing a two-handed firing grip (see fig. 4-27 on page 92).

CAUTION

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the body when establishing the two-handed grip.

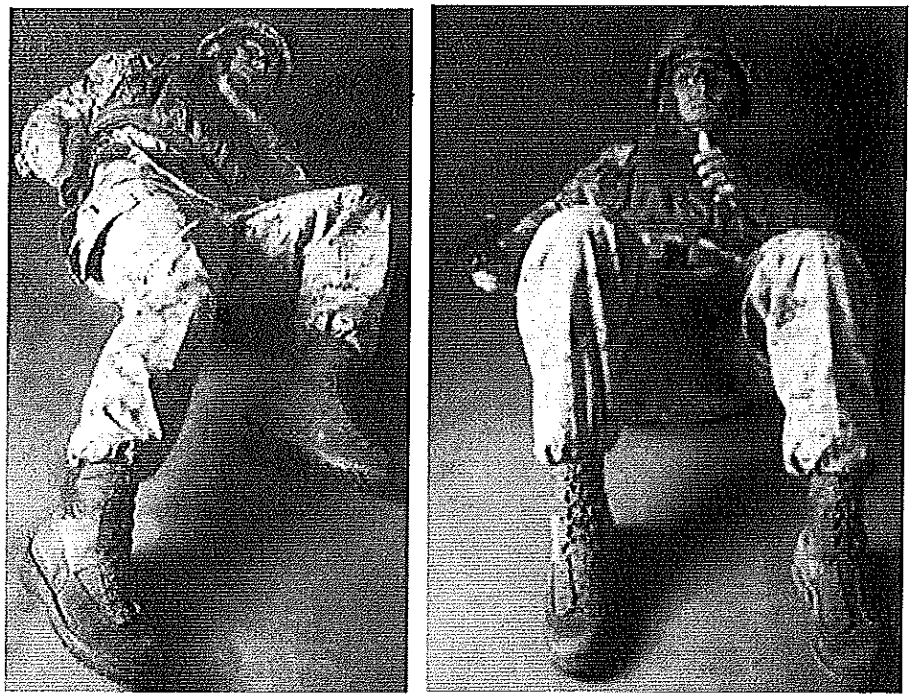


Figure 4-27. Drawing the Pistol from the Supine Prone Position (Back).

3. Sit up slightly by rolling the shoulders up off the ground while establishing sight alignment and site picture. The inside of the thighs can be used for stability (see fig. 4-28).

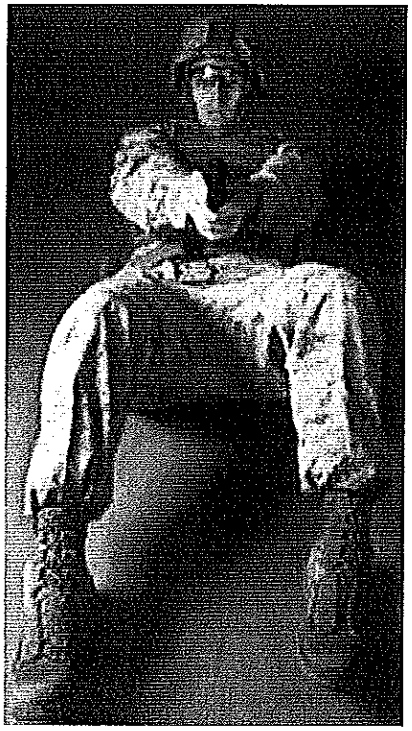


Figure 4-28. Firing from the Supine Prone Position (Back).

Fetal

If a Marine is engaging a threat from behind a small area of cover, such as a car wheel, small barrier) he can fire while on his side in a fetal position. Presenting the smallest amount of his body as a target, the Marine can engage while keeping his body covered and perpendicular to the threat (see fig. 4-29).

Figure 4-29. Firing from the Supine Prone Position (Fetal).

Supported Prone Position

The supported prone position creates the lowest silhouette, providing maximum protection from enemy fire. The prone position can be assumed behind a tree, a wall, or almost any type of cover. It is flexible and allows shooting from all sides and from cover of varying sizes. Follow these steps to assume the prone position and maximize the use of cover:

1. Keep the position as low as possible to ensure no part of the body is exposed to the enemy.
2. Conform the body to cover to maximize its use.
3. If the cover is narrow, position your body directly behind it and keep your legs together. Your body should be in line with the pistol, directly behind the weapon. The straight leg prone position presents a smaller target to the enemy.
4. The cocked leg prone position is ideally suited to firing from around cover, such as a log, because of the angle of the body.

Considerations for Firing from Cover

Cover is anything that provides protection from enemy fire (see fig. 4-31). When contact with the enemy is made, it is important to seek cover as quickly as possible. Cover should be, at a minimum thick enough to stop small arms fire and high enough to protect the Marine when firing from behind cover. The effective use of cover enables engagement of threats while affording protection from enemy fire.

Figure 4-31. Cover.

Concealment is anything that hides a Marine from enemy view, such as trees or brush, though it might not afford protection (see fig. 4-32).

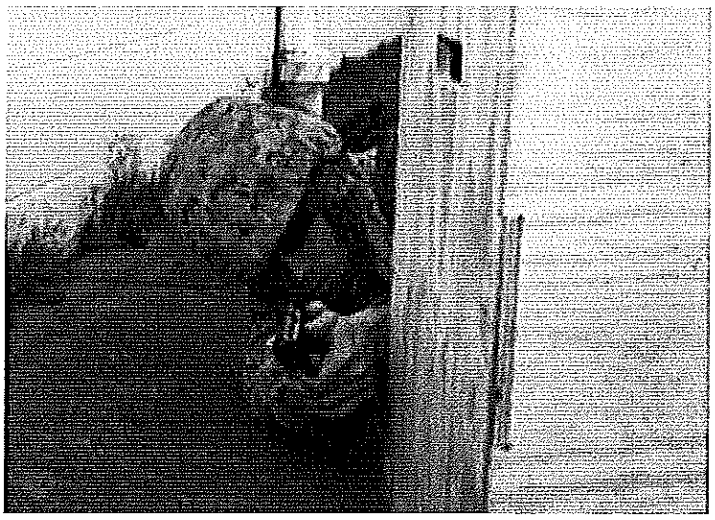


Figure 4-32. Concealment.

On the battlefield, a firing position that allows maximum observation of the enemy as well as cover and concealment is a necessity. A good position provides a solid foundation for the pistol, maximizes the use of cover to provide protection from enemy fire, allows mobility, and provides observation of the enemy. Where possible, cover should be used to provide additional support for the position.

Choosing Cover Materials

Natural cover, such as rocks, logs, or rubble, is best because it is hard to detect; however, any material, including buildings and other structures, that may protect an individual from small arms fire can be used for cover. Some common types of cover material are as follows:

- **Dirt.** The best type of cover is dirt packed to a minimum thickness of 18 inches.

- **Cinder Blocks.** Cinder blocks used as foundations for houses or walls can be used for cover, but they can be penetrated. They are also brittle and can shatter upon impact from small arms fire, which can cause injury by secondary fragmentation.
- **Trees, Logs, and Telephone Poles.** Wood is a relatively dense material; therefore, it offers good covering protection since bullets have a tendency to fragment as they penetrate. Live trees have a greater resistance to bullet penetration than dead wood. Wood that has been treated with creosote, such as telephone poles and railroad ties, offers better protection from projectiles than untreated wood, but it still does not ensure protection from small arms fire.
- **Sandbags.** Sandbags can be used for cover; however, they should always be packed tightly and tamped down to increase their density. If loosely filled or moist, a bullet can more easily penetrate the sandbag. Doubling or overlapping sandbags also increases their protective qualities.

Changing Positions

If the Marine has been firing from cover and has to reload or clear a stoppage behind cover, he should attempt to resume firing from a different position. The threat will be aware of the Marine's position and will be waiting for him to reappear.

Moving

In combat, the Marine must be constantly aware of his surroundings and available cover should enemy contact occur. When moving from cover to cover, the Marine should select the next cover location and plan his route before moving from his present position. This is done by quickly looking from behind cover to ensure the area is clear, ensuring the head and eyes are exposed for as short a time as possible. If necessary, the Marine should conduct a tactical reload before moving from cover. Once the Marine is committed to moving, all focus should be on moving until cover is reassumed.

Considerations for Supported Firing Positions

To maximize the support the position provides, the firing position should be adjusted to fit or conform to the shape of the cover. Elements of a sound firing position, such as balance and stability, must be incorporated and adjusted to fit the situation and type of cover. A supported firing position should minimize exposure to the enemy and his fire, maximize the stability of the pistol, and provide observation of the enemy. Any stable support may be used, such as logs, sandbags, or walls. The surrounding environment will dictate the support and position. The size, distance to the threat, and time will affect the need for stability and recovery in the selection of a supported firing position.

For a threat a great distance away, the Marine may choose to sacrifice some of his ability to manage recoil in order to assume a supported firing position. Such a position will provide him additional stability needed to fire accurately at long range. On the other hand, recovery may be more important for the Marine if he must fire multiple shots on the threat quickly. In this situation, the Marine may choose to sacrifice some stability in his supported firing position in order to engage a threat with multiple shots.

Adjusting the Firing Position

Cover should provide additional support for the position. The firing position must be adjusted

behind cover to ensure stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy. The firing position will depend on the Marine's height in relation to the height of the cover. The firing position must minimize exposure to the threat but allow observation of the area.

Even though support is used, continue to apply the same amount of muscular tension in the grip, wrist, and forearms. Muscular tension is still necessary to stabilize the weapon sights and manage recovery. Because the sights are higher than the muzzle of the weapon, the Marine must ensure that the muzzle of the weapon clears the cover as he obtains sight alignment/sight picture on the threat. The closer the Marine is to the cover, the easier it is to ensure the muzzle clears the cover.

Keeping the Entire Body behind Cover

Avoid inadvertent exposure of any part of your body. Be especially aware of the top of the head, elbows, knees, or any other body part that may extend beyond the cover.

Log/Curb

When firing from behind a log or a curb, the Marine must present the lowest possible silhouette, and may use the log/curb for maximum support of the position (see fig. 4-33). For maximum protection, muzzle clearance is kept as close as possible to the top of the log/curb. Firing can be done from either side or top of the log depending on cover and concealment. The Marine will fire over the top of a curb when it is used for cover.

Figure 4-33. Firing Behind a Curb for Cover.

Wall or Barricade

Firing is done from either side or over the top of a wall or barricade (see fig. 4-34 on page 97).

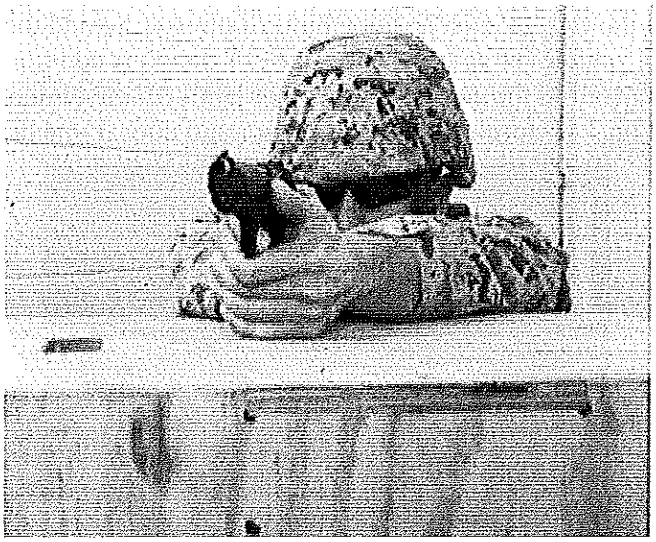


Figure 4-34. Firing Behind a Barricade/Wall for Cover.

Window

In situations where you have not been detected by the enemy, use the side of the window or the window sill for support. Ideally, it is best to fire from the corner of the window sill when using the window for support. If there is little chance for detection or the shot can be made without support, remain well back and to the side of the window opening so the pistol will not protrude and your body is concealed by the shadows/darkness of the room. If you are positioned too close to the window, your body will provide a silhouette to the enemy.

Vehicle

In many combat situations particularly in urban environments, a vehicle may be the best form of cover. When using a vehicle for cover, the engine block provides the most protection from small arms fire. The Marine should establish a position behind the front wheel or front door jamb so the engine block is between him and the threat. From this position the Marine may fire over the hood of the car or underneath the car from behind the wheel (see fig. 4-35):

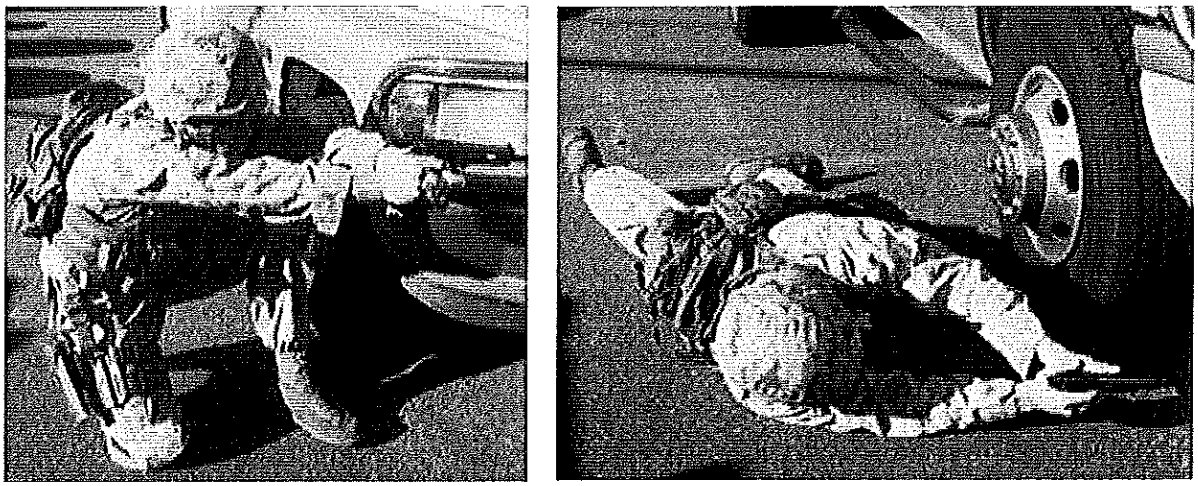


Figure 4-35. Firing Behind a Vehicle for Cover.

At the back of the car, the only cover is provided by the axle and the wheel. If the Marine must

shoot from the back of the car, he must position himself directly behind the wheel as much as possible. When using a vehicle for cover, the Marine can establish additional support for the pistol by positioning himself in the car behind the door jamb (frame of door) and placing his hands or pistol against the "V" formed by the open door and door frame (see fig. 4-36):

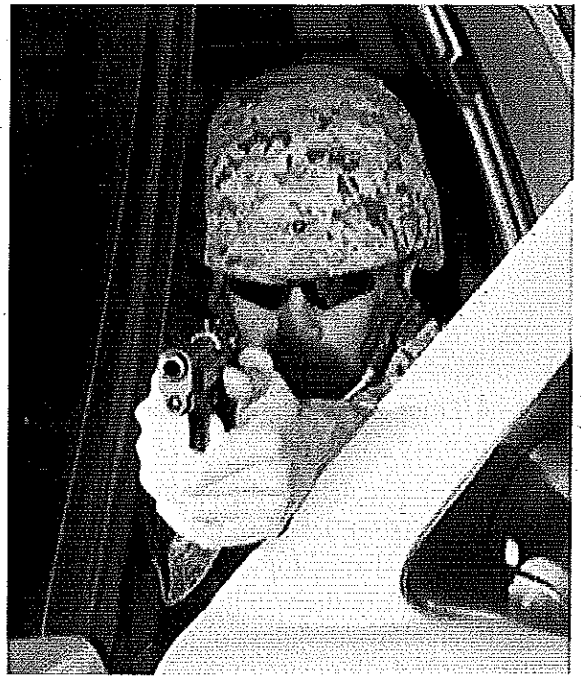


Figure 4-36. Using a Door Jamb for Support.

Supporting the Position and the Pistol

The support should be used to help stabilize both the firing position and the pistol to enable the Marine to maintain sight alignment and sight picture. The forearms or hands can contact the support to stabilize the weapon (see fig. 4-37). The Marine may rest the pistol on or against the support as long as the support does not interfere or affect the cycle of operation of the weapon. Avoid placing the slide of the pistol against the cover for this reason.

Figure 4-37. Forearms/Hands Contacting Cover.

When firing over the top of cover, the position may be supported and stabilized by resting the trigger guard or the magazine on the cover. The pistol may be pushed up against the support so the "V" formed by the receiver and the front of the trigger guard rests firmly against the support (see fig. 4-38):

Figure 4-38. Weapon on Cover.

When firing around the sides of cover, the position may be supported and stabilized by placing the back of the hand or arm against the cover; otherwise, the weapon can be canted and placed against the cover so the trigger guard or the "V" formed between the receiver and trigger guard rests against the support (see fig. 4-39). This position will enable the Marine to expose less of himself to the enemy.

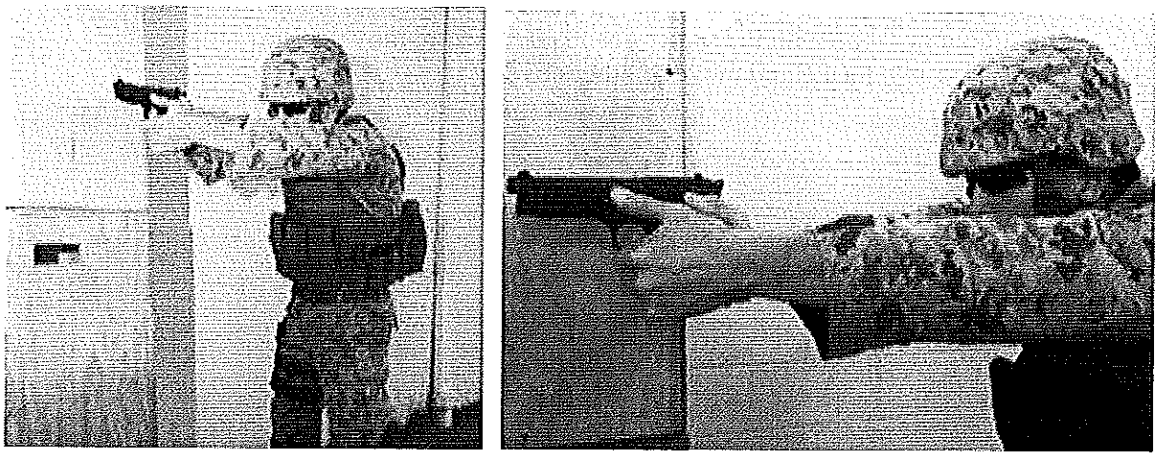


Figure 4-39. Firing Around the Side of Cover.

When shooting from the left side of cover, the Marine should still use his right hand and eye. He may have to cant his head and the pistol to the left to establish sight alignment. For right-handed Marines, shooting from the left side of cover may expose more of the Marine to the enemy than shooting from the right side.

Methods for Searching for and Engaging Threats from Behind Cover

To locate threats when behind cover or to ensure the area is clear before moving, the Marine must expose as little of himself as possible to the enemy. Additionally, the Marine must be ready to fire if a threat is located. There are two techniques that the Marine can use to locate and engage threats from behind cover: the pie and rollout techniques. These techniques minimize the Marine's exposure to enemy fire while placing him in a position to engage threats or to move to another location if necessary. Both techniques are used in the kneeling and standing positions.

Using the Pie Technique

The pie technique can be used when trying to incrementally increase plane or vision such as when rounding a corner of a wall or a doorway. This allows a Marine to minimize exposure to a threat while slowly increasing his lateral field of view. In the pie technique, an oblique position is the most effective because the position of the body minimizes exposure from cover. Follow these steps to perform the pie technique (see fig. 4-40):

1. Staying behind cover, move back and away from the leading edge of the cover; the surroundings and situation will dictate the distance. Generally, the further back the Marine is from cover, the greater his area of observation; likewise, staying too close to cover decreases the area of observation.
2. Assume a firing position and lower the pistol sights enough to have a clear field of view, aiming in on the leading edge of the cover.
3. Taking small side steps, slowly move out from behind the cover, covering the field of view with the aiming eye and muzzle of the weapon. Wherever the eyes move, the muzzle should move.
4. Continue moving out from cover until a threat is identified or the area is found to be clear.
    a. When a threat is identified, deactivate the safety, place the finger on the trigger, and engage the threat.
    b. If a threat is identified before moving out from cover, the pistol should be thumbcocked with the safety deactivated before moving out.
5. When necessary, locate and move to other cover.

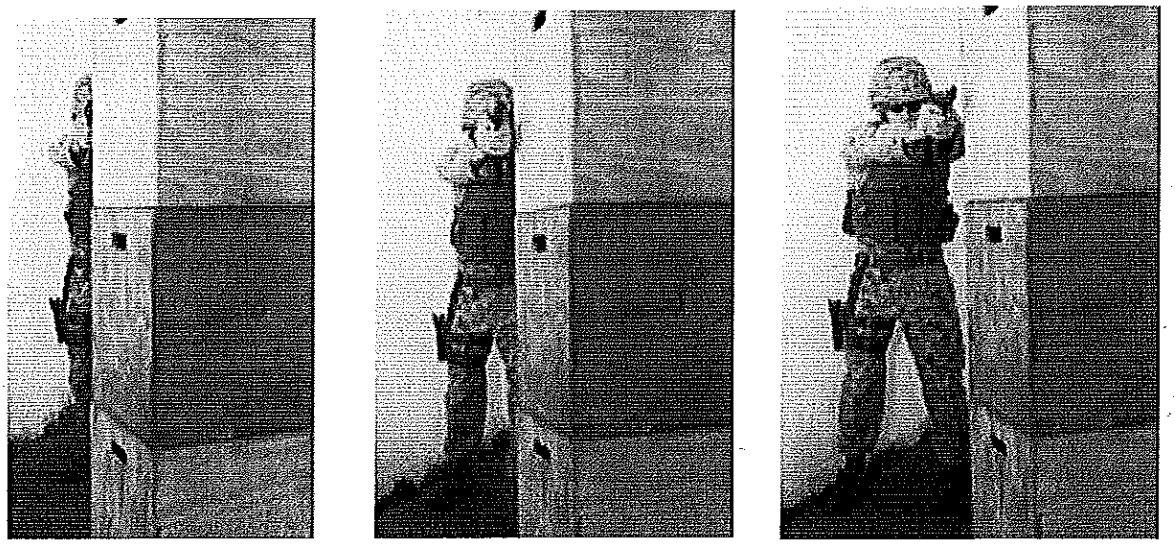


Figure 4-40. Pie Technique.

Using the Rollout Technique

The rollout technique can be used when engaging a threat to the Marine's front while providing for maximum cover of most of the body. Keeping the feet in place will enable the Marine to return to full cover smartly. In the rollout technique, an isosceles position is the most effective because the position of the body allows the Marine to better maintain his balance. Follow these steps to perform the rollout technique:

1. Staying behind cover, move back and position the body so it is in line with the leading edge of the cover, ensuring that no part of the body extends beyond the cover.
2. Assume a firing position and come to the ready, ensuring the muzzle is just behind the cover.
3. Canting the head and weapon slightly, roll the upper body out to the side just enough to have a clear field of view. Keeping the feet in place, push up on the ball of one foot to facilitate rolling out (see fig. 4-41):

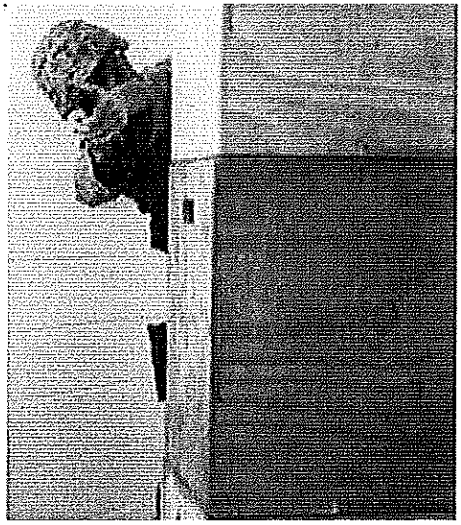


Figure 4-41. Rollout Technique.

4. Continue rolling out from cover until a threat is identified or the area is found to be clear.
    a. When a threat is identified, deactivate the safety, place the finger on the trigger, and engage the threat.
    b. If a threat is identified before moving out from cover, the pistol should be thumbcocked with the safety deactivated before moving out.
5. When necessary, locate and move to other cover.

Combining the Pie and Rollout Techniques

In some situations, it may be necessary to use both the pie and rollout technique (see fig. 4-42 on page 102) in order to search an entire area, such as the corner of a building or a doorway, for threats. Changing from one technique to another may allow the Marine to reduce his exposure to the threat and to enemy fire.

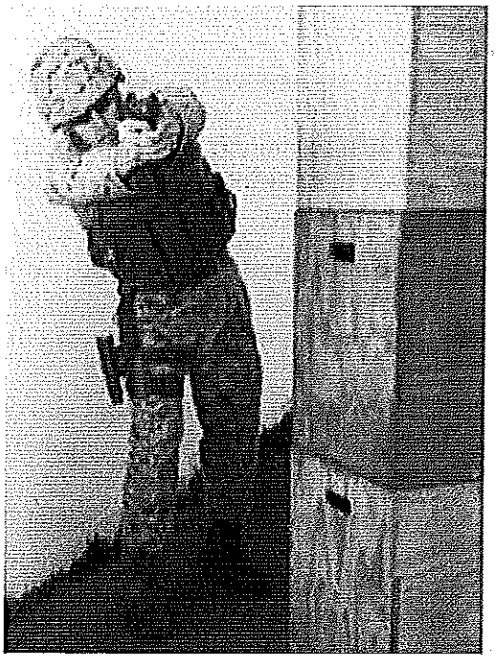


Figure 4-42. Combining the Pie and Rollout Techniques.

Chapter 5
Shot Delivery Techniques

To successfully engage a combat threat with any Marine Corps-issued pistol, the Marine must employ effective engagement techniques. The Marine's performance of these skills and the proper application of the fundamentals of marksmanship are critical to success in a combat situation.

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines reverse instructions as necessary.

Factors Affecting Whether to Fire Single or Double Action

The Marine must make a quick decision whether to fire single or double action. Ultimately, the decision will be based on the Marine's capabilities, but the decision will also be based on time and accuracy and the distance and size of the threat.

Time

There is a tradeoff between time and accuracy. The Marine will sacrifice time to fire a single-action, precision shot; however, what he sacrifices in time, he will gain in accuracy. For quick engagements at close range, there may not be time to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot because shots are needed on the threat quickly and stability of hold and sight picture are not as critical to accuracy. However, when time permits and for threats at longer ranges, the pistol may be thumbcocked to place it in the single-action mode to reduce the weight of the trigger and the distance it must travel rearward to fire the first shot.

Distance and Size of the Threat

The smaller the threat, the more critical the application of the fundamentals to engage it accurately. The pistol should be thumbcocked and fired in the single-action mode when the fundamentals are more critical to accuracy (e.g., long range or small threats at close range). Likewise, the pistol should be fired in the double-action mode when trigger control, sight picture, and stability of hold are not as critical for accuracy (e.g., close range or large threats).

Single Precision Shot

For threats at longer ranges, it may be necessary to slow down the application of the fundamentals to deliver a single, precision shot. This can be accomplished through a slow fire technique in the single-action mode. Sight alignment becomes more critical the smaller the threat and the greater the distance to it. To engage small threats or those partially exposed and threats at longer ranges where precision is required, a precision shot is fired in the single-action mode:

1. Thumbcock the pistol for a single-action shot.
2. Close one eye and focus on the front sight.
3. Fire one well-aimed, precision shot on the threat.

Controlled Pair

A controlled pair is two aimed shots fired upon a threat in rapid succession with a sight picture having been acquired on both. Two shots increase the trauma, such as shock or blood loss, on the threat, which increases the Marine's chances of quickly eliminating the threat. The range to the threat will determine the rate of fire (i.e., the closer to the threat, the faster the rate of fire); however, the Marine should not shoot so fast that he exceeds his capability for firing accurately.

After firing, the pistol's muzzle climbs with the recoil of the weapon. To fire two shots, the Marine must quickly recover the sights to the same area on the threat while reacquiring sight alignment and sight picture. Proper recovery automatically brings the sights back on the threat following recoil. It begins immediately after the application of the fundamentals to bring the pistol sights into alignment with the threat in preparation for firing the next shot. As soon as sight picture is acquired, apply trigger control to fire the next shot.

Failure to Stop

If the Marine has engaged a threat and it has not diminished even after his controlled pair of shots, he may assess this as a failure to stop the threat. He must quickly assess his situation, his shot placement, the time he has left to engage the threat, and his technique.

Assessing Performance

When assessing the situation, the Marine must assess his own performance to determine whether he is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship correctly. Failure to eliminate a threat may be attributed to problems in the Marine's shooting performance. There may be numerous reasons why a Marine's body shots were not effective (e.g., inaccuracy, body armor, psychological or physiological reactions to a violent encounter, ballistic failure, or drugs). The Marine may choose to slow down his application of the fundamentals and fire a slow fire, precision shot.

Shot Placement

Even at close ranges, the Marine may only be presented with a small threat if it is partially exposed. In this situation, the Marine will aim his sights on the portion of the threat that is exposed. Otherwise, he will generally aim at the chest first and head, if necessary.

Chest

The goal of any engagement is immediate incapacitation of a threat. The Marine Corps advocates a center mass aiming point (i.e., in the center of the chest). Center mass in the chest targets the heart and other major vascular structures, so a well-placed shot in the chest will cause massive and rapid blood loss.

Head

For threats at close range and within the capability of the Marine, a precision shot may be placed in the head to immediately eliminate it. A shot in the head is considered an incapacitating shot. This is only done if the Marine is accurately engaging the threat, but it does not go down.

The center of the head is the primary alternate aiming point because one shot to the brain has the best chance of immediately incapacitating an adversary. A frontal shot should be placed within the center head, which is defined as a 5-inch diameter centered on the bridge of the nose (see fig. 5-1 on page 105). A center head shot easily penetrates the head with minimal deflection or energy loss. While a center head shot will be more likely to produce immediate incapacitation, it presents a smaller target than the chest and is a more difficult shot to make.

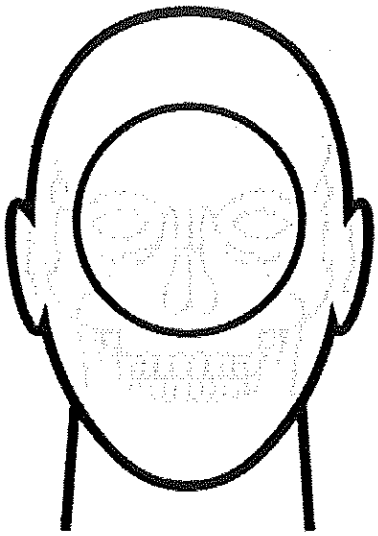


Figure 5-1. Center Head.

Time

The key to success rests with the Marine's ability to slow down his performance and focus on the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship to ensure accurate shot placement. The time the Marine has to engage the threat affects whether he can slow down his application of the fundamentals to fire a precision shot. Firing a precision shot takes time, a sacrifice he may need to make for accuracy.

Technique

Marines should follow these steps:

1. After firing two shots to the torso, assess the situation.
2. If the threat has not been eliminated, establish sight picture on the designated aiming area.
3. Close one eye, focus on the front sight, and fire a precision shot.
4. Search and assess.

Search and Assess Procedures

To be successful in combat, the Marine must have the ability to assess the situation and take appropriate action following engagement. Actions taken upon assessing the situation include re-engaging the threat through a precision shot, two shots, or offset hold; reloading; or assuming a carry. The Marine's performance of these skills and proper application of the fundamentals of marksmanship are the keys to his success in a combat situation.

Purpose

In combat, once a Marine engages a threat, he must quickly assess the situation and the effectiveness of his engagement. This split-second assessment should be done quickly to determine a best course of action. Making a quick assessment prevents the Marine from the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy. Immediately after threat engagement, the Marine must assess the situation to determine if the threat has been eliminated and search the area to determine if there is a new threat that must be engaged.

Technique

To search and assess, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Immediately after engaging the threat or threats, keep the trigger finger on the trigger and the sight picture on the threat(s). After eliminating the threat(s), place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. **Do not place the pistol on safe.**
2. While maintaining the firing grip, bend the elbows and lower the arms just enough to look over the pistol muzzle and provide a clear field of view.
3. Look over the front sight to allow sight alignment and sight picture to be quickly re-established should follow-on shots need to be fired.
4. Search the area by moving the head and eyes left and right (approximately 45 degrees from center). Keeping both eyes open will increase the field of view (see fig. 5-2 on page 107).

Figure 5-2. Search and Assess.

5. When it is determined the area is clear of all threats, place the weapon on safe and assume a carry or holster the weapon

Searching and Assessing from the Prone and Kneeling Positions

Depending on the tactical situation, the Marine may choose to increase his area of observation by searching and assessing at a higher profile position (e.g., moving from the prone position to the kneeling, and to the standing, as required). When moving from position to position, maintain positive control of the weapon so it can be presented to the threat readily when needed. Keep the pistol oriented toward the threat at all times with the sights lowered just below eye level.

Searching and Assessing from the Prone Position

Due to the placement of the arms and grip on the deck, there is limited mobility for searching and assessing in the prone position. To search and assess from the prone position, look slightly to the left and right; the muzzle tracking with the head and eyes. After searching and assessing at the prone position, move to a kneeling position by performing the following steps:

1. Drop the support hand to the deck and push up off the deck to both knees. Keep the pistol oriented toward the threat.
2. Assume a two-kneed position and search and assess. Move to a one-kneed position and continue searching and assessing.

Searching and Assessing from the Kneeling Position

After searching and assessing in a one-kneed kneeling position and while keeping the pistol oriented toward the threat, stand and continue to search and assess.

Actions Taken Upon Assessing the Situation

If the threat has not been eliminated, the Marine must determine whether to re-engage the threat.

If the Marine decides to re-engage the threat, his capabilities as well as the size, time, and distance to the threat will dictate the technique used. Re-engagement techniques include re-engaging the threat with a well-aimed precision shot or two shots.

If the threat's distance exceeds the Marine's capabilities for engaging it or the threat is partially exposed and too small for the Marine to accurately engage it, the Marine should not attempt to re-engage the threat. In this situation, the Marine may seek cover, seek out a better opportunity for engagement, or use support to better stabilize the weapon. If the threat has been eliminated, the Marine should proceed to search the area for other threats or assume a carry.

Once the Marine has conducted the search and assess and deemed the area clear of threats, he should conduct a weapon check to ensure the weapon is fully prepared prior to holstering.

Chapter 6
Engaging Multiple Threats

When a Marine is forced to engage more than one threat at a time, there are two actions he can take to turn the advantage in his favor: adhere to the fundamentals of marksmanship and employ the techniques of multiple threat engagement. To be effective in combat, the Marine must be able to prioritize the threats and employ multiple threat engagement techniques.

Prioritization of Threats

Once multiple threats have been identified, they must be prioritized in terms of the threat each one presents. While the fundamentals of marksmanship must still be applied, prioritizing threats and planning the engagement are just as essential to successful multiple threat engagement.

Successful engagement of multiple threats requires a somewhat different mindset from single threat engagement. For example, following engagement of a single threat, the Marine assesses the situation. During multiple threat engagements, after the first threat is engaged, he must immediately engage the next threat and continue until all threats have been eliminated. This requires a mindset that enables quick action. While engaging multiple threats, it is critical that the Marine is aware of his surroundings and not focused on one threat. He must maintain constant awareness, continuously searching the terrain around him for additional threats.

When multiple threats appear, the Marine must prioritize the threats to establish an engagement sequence. Threat priority is based on such factors as proximity, threat, and opportunity; no two situations will be the same. The Marine should not attempt to engage a threat beyond his proficiency level or the weapon's capability (e.g., a threat farther than 50 meters away). The principal method of prioritization is to determine the level of danger for each threat so all may be engaged in succession from the most threatening to the least threatening. Examples of factors the Marine should consider when prioritizing threats include:

- The threat that presents the greatest danger to the Marine.
- The threat closest to the Marine.

Prioritizing threats is an ongoing process. As the engagement proceeds, new threats may appear that are more threatening than those previously identified. Also, threats that had been identified as most dangerous may take cover, delaying their engagement. The Marine must remain constantly alert to changes in threat, proximity, and his opportunity for engagement, and revise his threat priorities accordingly.

Technique of Engagement

Once threats have been prioritized, the Marine must quickly eliminate them. It is crucial to understand and practice the methods for engaging multiple threats until they become second nature. When physical engagement actions are automatic in combat, the Marine can maintain an awareness of the complete battlefield and concentrate on the mental aspects of multiple threat engagement.

Method for Engaging Multiple Threats

The fundamentals of marksmanship are critical to the development of skills to support multiple threat engagement. While quickness is important when engaging multiple threats, the Marine's primary concern should be on placing accurate rounds on the threat, striking a balance between quick shots at close range and precision shots at long range; all threats pose a danger and must be

accurately engaged. To engage multiple threats, use the box or rectangle techniques outlined on page 113.

Two Threats - Box Technique

To engage two threats simultaneously:

1. Acquire sight picture and engage the first threat with two shots to the torso. Do not attempt to assess the first threat yet. The immediate priority is to eliminate both threats.
2. Immediately transition to the second threat. Acquire sight picture and engage with two shots to the torso.
3. Engage the second threat with one shot to the head.
4. Transition back to the first threat and engage with one shot to the head. Then and only then, assess both threats.

Three or More Threats – Rectangle Technique

To engage three or more threats simultaneously:

1. Acquire sight picture and engage the first threat with one shot to the torso. Do not attempt to assess the first threat yet. The immediate priority is to eliminate all threats.
2. Immediately transition to the second threat. Acquire sight picture and engage with one shot to the torso. Repeat as needed for the total number of threats.
3. Immediately engage the last threat with one shot to the head reversing the order firing one shot to the head of each threat.
4. Then and only then, assess all threats.

Considerations for Firing Positions

The selection and use of firing positions is critical to engaging multiple threats. There are basic differences in the techniques to engage multiple threats depending on the firing position. As in any firing situation, if the situation permits, the Marine should make a quick mental review of the terrain to select a firing position that provides stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy. The firing position should also provide flexibility for engaging multiple threats. The more dispersed the multiple threats, the greater the lateral movement the position must afford to engage them.

Although the prone position provides the maximum stability for firing well-placed shots, engaging multiple threats from this position may require adjustment in the position from shot to shot, depending on the distance between the threats and their location. Because the arms are fully extended on the ground, the prone position can be restrictive, increasing the time it will take to recover the sights onto subsequent threats. The kneeling and standing positions provide an increased field of view and allow maximum lateral adjustment to engage dispersed threats.

Kneeling/Squatting/Standing Positions

The type of adjustment the Marine must make in the kneeling, squatting, or standing positions in order to orient his body in the direction of each threat is a function of the distance between the threats and the Marine's ability to maintain stability of hold and recover from recoil.

Once the first threat is engaged and while maintaining a proper shooting position, he should rotate the body in the direction of the threat, keeping the feet in place. In the squatting and standing positions, body rotation and sight picture should be adjusted left and right through movement of the knees. Bending the left knee toward the right rotates the body position and sight picture to the right and vice versa.

In the kneeling position, smaller amounts of body rotation can be accomplished through moving the hips. Moving the left hip toward the right rotates the body position and sight picture to the right and vice versa.

In the standing position, the Marine may bend slightly at the knees while rotating the body. This allows the Marine to distribute his weight forward to provide additional stability to the position and better control the effects of recoil.

If the threats are some distance apart, the Marine may not be able to maintain stability of hold or properly manage the effects of recoil by just rotating the body. In this situation, the Marine must adjust his entire position by adjusting the placement of either his feet or knee(s) to face in the direction of the new threat. The eyes, head, and muzzle should move to the new threat in unison.

Prone Position

If the Marine must make an adjustment in the prone position to engage multiple threats, he must ensure that he maintains proper arm placement. Improper arm placement may affect his stability of hold and his ability to acquire sight picture.

Once the first threat has been engaged, he should adjust the position of the lower part of the body to orient the upper body toward the threat without disturbing the placement of the arms. This will allow the Marine to maintain stability of hold and quickly recover on subsequent threats. Moving the legs to the left will orient the upper body to the right and moving the legs to the right will orient the upper body to the left.

For threats that are widely dispersed, the Marine may need to adjust his entire position to orient his body in the direction of subsequent threats. Using the support hand, he can push his upper body off the deck just high enough to move the body in the direction of the threat, extending the firing arm toward the threat and keeping the muzzle pointed in the direction of the threat.

Chapter 7
Employing the Pistol with Movement

Some tactical situations are quite complex and require Marines to apply advanced pistol engagement techniques in order to effectively engage the enemy and survive. The ability of the Marine to rapidly shoot on the move and to turn and fire will be critical to a successful engagement.

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines reverse instructions as necessary.

Moving with the Pistol

The likelihood of encountering a threat will dictate how the pistol should be carried while moving. However, whatever the method of carry, the muzzle of the weapon should be pointed in the same direction of the head and eyes. Like the movement of a tank turret, the eyes and muzzle move as one. When carrying the pistol in the ready, the weapon should be tucked in close to the body and the finger off the trigger. This position allows the Marine freedom of movement and still allows for a quick presentation of the weapon.

Engaging on the Move

When moving from one area of cover to another, it may become necessary to engage with an immediate threat. In this situation, the Marine lets accurate fire serve as his cover. The Marine can only move as fast as he can accurately shoot. A normal running movement produces bounce in the Marine's body, making it more difficult to use the sights of the pistol or to achieve a level of stability for accurate shooting. Engaging during movement is not intended to be used for a long period of time or for long distances. Rather, the Marine can move in a normal manner until it becomes necessary to engage a threat, at which time he should slow his movement enough to achieve accurate fire (see fig. 7-1 on page 113). This method of movement allows for accurate threat engagement:

- Movement must be smooth and steady. Maintain a lower center of gravity by keeping the knees bent and the upper body erect. The bent knees serve act as "shock absorbers" to steady your movement so the pistol sights can be stabilized on the threat.
- Roll the foot heel to toe as you place your foot on the deck and lift it up again to provide for the smoothest motion possible. The feet are not lifted as high as in a normal walk or run, which allows for kicking an obstruction instead of tripping on it.
- The feet and knees are pointed in the direction of travel. The feet should almost fall in line during movement. This straight-line movement will keep the sights from bouncing excessively and will allow a good stationary stance when needed.
- If there is a need to engage a threat off to the side, the shooter rotates at the waist to move his upper body in the desired direction. The upper body shooting position does not change.

Note: Engaging during movement can also be used moving slowly backward while engaging a threat.

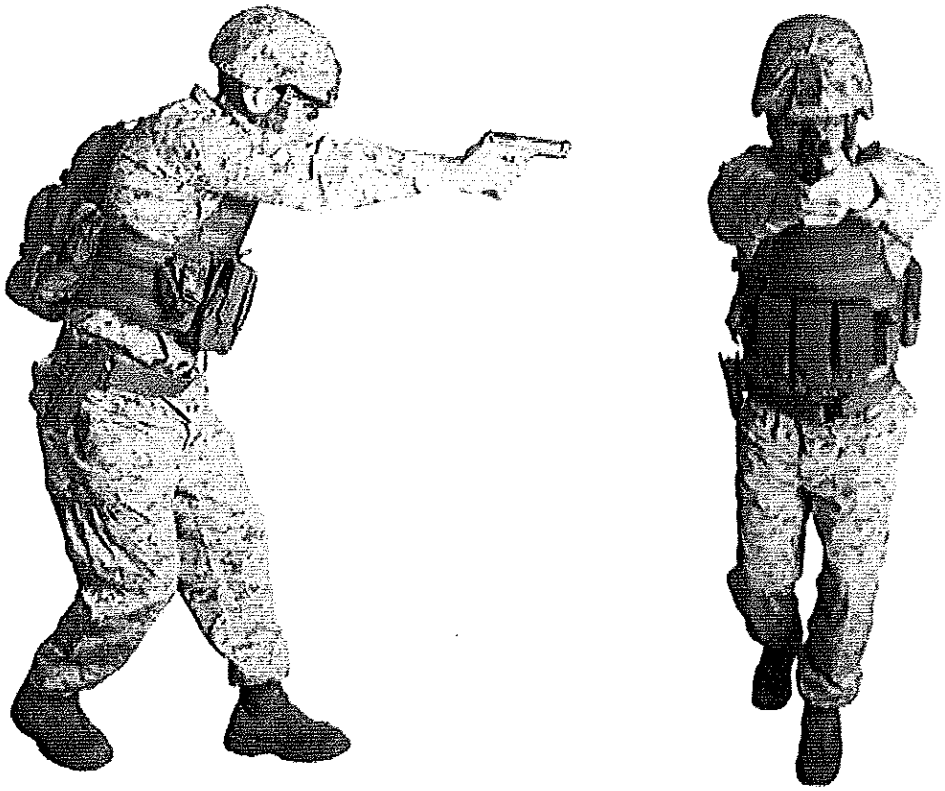


Figure 7-1. Engaging During Movement.

Engaging Threats Using the Pistol Sights

When the time comes to shoot, it is extremely important to concentrate on the front sight of the pistol. The adherence to the fundamentals of marksmanship becomes even more vital under these adverse shooting conditions.

Moving Continuously

A Marine should continue to move no matter what happens. Continuing to move makes it difficult for a threat to engage the Marine and can be one of the best assets the individual has. When moving to cover or to a different position, the Marine should not stop to engage a threat.

Reloading and Stoppages

If a stoppage occurs or a reload is required while moving, the shooter's primary consideration is to keep moving and seek cover. Ideally, reloads and clearing stoppages should be performed behind cover.

Pivoting

Pivoting techniques are used to engage widely dispersed threats in the oblique and on the flanks. The technique for pivoting allows a Marine to engage a threat that is not directly in front of him. The key to pivoting is smoothness and quickness of pivoting and presentation of the weapon to engage the threat. This is achieved by adhering to the principle that wherever the head goes, the body will follow.

Engaging Threats 90 Degrees to the Right

To engage a threat that is 90 degrees to the right of the Marine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Turn the head toward the threat and identify it. Then, maintain focus on the threat for the rest of the presentation (see fig 7-2).

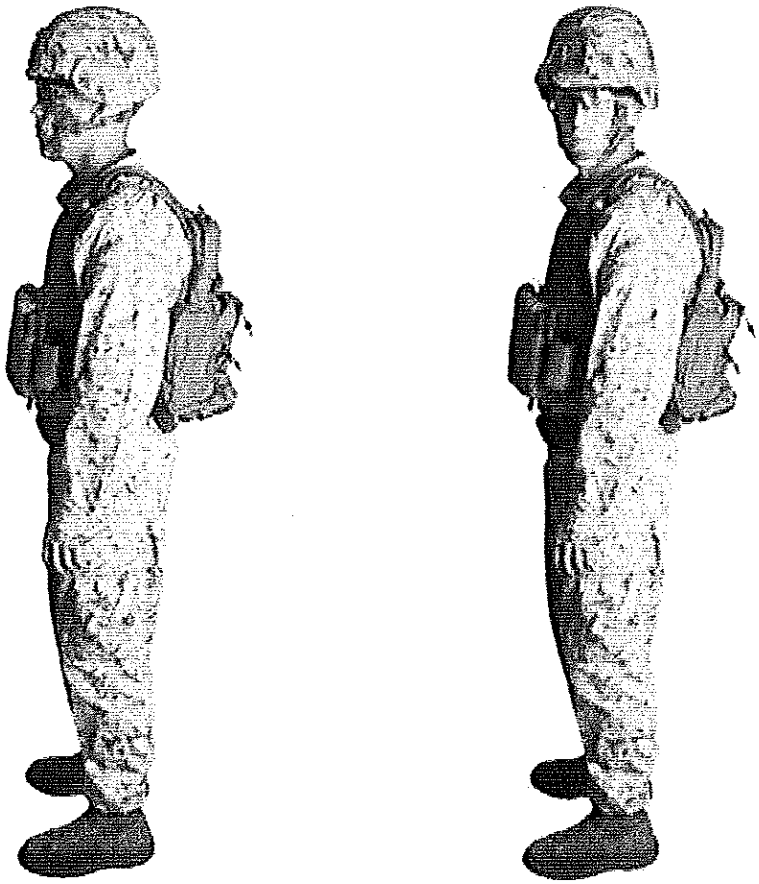


Figure 7-2. Identify the Threat.

2. Begin weapon presentation. At the same time, turn toward the threat by raising the left foot while pivoting on the ball of the right foot and then planting the left foot when squarely facing the threat and in a natural stance. The muzzle of the weapon does not rotate forward until the Marine is facing the threat (see fig. 7-3 on page 115).

Figure 7-3. Pivot to the Threat.

3. Deactivate the safety and place the trigger finger on the trigger as the weapon is presented. Acquire sight picture (see fig. 7-4 on page 116).

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Figure 7-4. Acquire Sight Picture.

4. Engage the threat. Ideally, the shot should break the instant presentation is complete.

Engaging Threats 90 Degrees to the Left

To engage a threat that is 90 degrees to the left of the Marine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Turn the head toward the threat and identify it. Then, maintain focus on the threat for the rest of the presentation.
2. Begin weapon presentation. At the same time, turn toward the threat by raising the right foot while pivoting on the ball of the left foot and then planting the right foot when squarely facing the threat and in a natural stance. The muzzle of the weapon does not rotate forward until the Marine is facing the threat.
3. Deactivate the safety and place the trigger finger on the trigger as the weapon is presented. Acquire sight picture.
4. Engage the threat. Ideally, the shot should break the instant presentation is complete.

Engaging Threats 180 Degrees to the Rear

To engage a threat that is 180 degrees to the rear of the Marine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Turn the head toward the threat, looking over either the right or left shoulder, and identify it.

Then, maintain focus on the threat for the rest of the presentation (see fig. 7-5).

Figure 7-5. Identify the Threat.

2. Begin weapon presentation. At the same time, pivot toward the threat. The muzzle of the weapon does not rotate forward until the Marine is facing the threat. To pivot to the right, pick up the left foot while pivoting on the ball of the right foot, and then plant the left foot when squarely facing the threat and in a natural stance. To pivot to the left, pick up the right foot while pivoting on the ball of the left foot, and then plant the right foot when squarely facing the threat and in a natural stance (see fig. 7-6 on page 118).

Figure 7-6. Pivot to the Threat.

3. Deactivate the safety and place the trigger finger on the trigger as the weapon is presented. Acquire sight picture (see fig. 7-7 on page 119).

Figure 7-7. Acquire Sight Picture.

4. Engage the threat. Ideally, the shot should break the instant presentation is complete.

Chapter 8
Engaging Moving Threats

The majority of combat threats will be moving; the enemy will move quickly from cover to cover, exposing himself for the shortest time possible. Therefore, a moving threat must be engaged before it disappears and with the same accuracy and precision used to engage a stationary threat. Practice in the proper application of leads and the fundamentals of marksmanship enable the successful engagement of moving threats.

Types of Moving Threats

Moving Threat

This type of threat moves in a consistent manner and is in continuous sight as it moves across your field of vision. A walking or running man is an example of this type of threat. However, unless the enemy is completely unaware of your presence, this type of threat is not likely to present itself.

Stop-and-Go Threat

The stop-and-go threat will appear and disappear during its movement due to intermittent cover, presenting itself for only a short period of time before re-establishing cover. This threat is most vulnerable to your fire at the beginning and end of his rush to cover as he gains momentum and then slows to avoid overrunning the cover position.

Leads for Moving Threats

When a shot is fired at a moving threat, the threat continues to move during the time of the bullet's flight. For this reason, the aim must be in front of the threat; otherwise, the shot will fall behind it. Lead is the distance in advance of the threat that is required to strike it when it is moving.

Factors Affecting Lead

Factors that affect the amount of lead are the threat's range, speed, and angle of movement.

Range
There is a time lag from the time a round is fired until the round strikes the point of aim. This time of flight could allow a threat to move out of the bullet's path if the round were fired directly at the threat. Time of flight increases as range to the threat increases. Therefore, the lead must be increased in proportion to the distance to the threat.

Speed
A greater lead will be required to hit a running man than a walking man because the running man will move a greater distance during the flight of the bullet.

Angle of Movement
The angle of threat movement also affects the amount of lead for threat engagement. The angle of movement across the shooter's line of sight relative to the flight of the bullet determines the amount of lead.

Types of Leads

Full Lead
The threat is moving straight across the shooter's line of sight with only one arm and half the

body visible. This threat requires a full lead because it will move the greatest distance across the shooter's line of sight during the flight of the bullet.

Half Lead
The threat is moving obliquely across the shooter's line of sight (at about a 45 degree angle). One arm and over half of the back or chest are visible. This threat requires half of a full lead because it will move half as far as a threat moving directly across the shooter's line of sight during the flight of the bullet.

No Lead
A threat moving directly toward or away from the shooter presents a full view of both arms and the entire back or chest. No lead is required. This threat is engaged in the same manner as a stationary threat because it is not moving across the shooter's line of sight.

Determining Lead

To engage a moving threat, a Marine must establish a lead using an offset hold technique. A lead is held in front of a moving threat to compensate for the distance the bullet will travel while the threat is moving. A lead should be based on something that can be visually seen and estimated with some uniformity, such as the width of a body (i.e., approximately 12 inches). For example, when a threat is moving directly across your front, you only see the side of the threat.
To establish a lead on a moving threat, the following general guidelines apply:

- For a threat moving at a distance of 15 meters away or less, no lead is required.

For a threat jogging (approximately 6 mph) directly across your line of sight (full lead) between 16-25 meters away, hold the pistol sights on the leading edge of the threat in the direction the threat is moving.

Engagement Methods

The Tracking Method

In this method, the Marine will "track" or follow the threat with his front sight while maintaining sight alignment and a point of aim on or ahead of (leading) the threat until the shot is fired. The sight picture is the aiming point in relation to the threat while maintaining sight alignment (when a lead is established in moving threat engagement, the sights will not be centered on the threat). Follow these steps to execute the tracking method of moving threat engagement (see fig. 8-1 on page 122):

1. The pistol may be thumbcocked while presenting it to the threat.
2. Track the muzzle of the weapon through the threat to the desired lead. The lead may be on the threat or some point in front of the threat depending upon the threat's range, speed, and angle of movement.
3. Track and maintain focus on the front sight while applying trigger pressure and acquiring sight alignment.
4. Continue tracking and applying trigger pressure and acquire sight picture. When sight picture is established, engage the threat while maintaining the lead.
5. Follow through so the lead is maintained as the bullet exits the muzzle. Continuing to track also enables a second shot to be fired on the threat, if necessary.

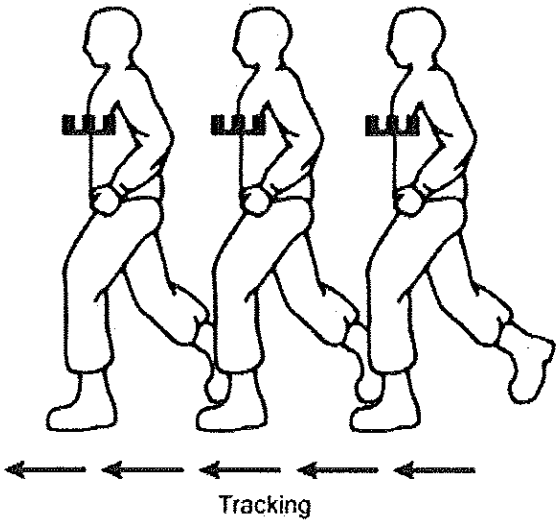
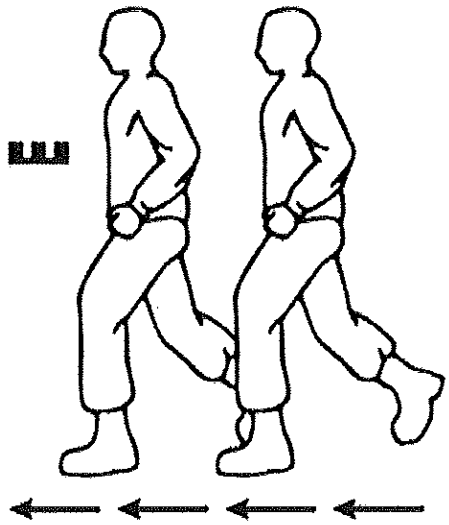


Figure 8-1. Tracking Method.

The Ambush Method

The ambush method is generally used for a stop-and-go threat and when it is difficult to track the threat with the pistol, such as in the prone position. With this method, the pistol is aimed at a predetermined engagement point ahead of the threat along its path, allowed to remain stationary, and fired when the threat reaches the predetermined engagement point. The engagement point is determined based on the required lead to effectively engage the threat. When the sights are settled, the threat moves into the predetermined engagement point creating the desired sight picture. Once sight picture is established, the remaining pressure is applied on the trigger until the shot fires. Follow these steps to execute the ambush method (see fig. 8-2 on page 123):

1. Look for a pattern of exposure.
2. The pistol may be thumbcocked while presenting it to a selected point of aim ahead of the threat.
3. While applying trigger pressure, obtain sight alignment in the aiming area.
4. While continuing trigger pressure, hold sight alignment until the threat moves into the predetermined engagement point and the desired sight picture is established.
5. When sight picture is acquired, engage the threat.
6. Follow through so the pistol sights are not disturbed as the bullet exits the muzzle.



Ambush

Figure 8-2. Ambush Method.

Marksmanship Fundamentals

The engagement of moving threats is not only a difficult skill to acquire, but also a perishable one that must be practiced frequently to be maintained. It is important to master the fundamentals of marksmanship in order to concentrate on tracking the threat and applying lead when it is necessary. Along with the three fundamentals of marksmanship (stability, aiming, and trigger control) in chapter 3, follow-through is key to successfully engaging moving threats.

Stability

To engage moving threats using the tracking method, you must move the pistol smoothly and steadily as the threat moves. A stable position and firm grip are necessary to steady the pistol sights while tracking. The firing position must allow for a degree of movement to support proper tracking for follow-on shots. Balance must be maintained throughout any movement in order to maintain stability.

Follow-through

When using the tracking method, continue tracking the threat while following through with the shot process to maintain the lead as the bullet exits the muzzle. Continuing to track also enables a second shot to be fired on the threat if necessary. The application of the fundamentals must be instinctive in order to concentrate on applying the proper lead and continuing the movement of the pistol in completion of the shot.

Aiming

The fundamentals of sight alignment remain unchanged for accurate engagement of a moving threat. The most common error when engaging moving threats is the tendency to focus on the threat rather than the front sight. For both the ambush and tracking methods, sight picture is changed from the normal center mass picture, based on range, speed, and angle of movement of the threat. It takes practice in engaging moving threats to quickly establish the desired sight picture for a given lead.

Trigger Control

Trigger control is critical to firing shots while establishing and maintaining sight alignment and sight picture on a moving threat. Because the single-action mode is the preferred method of engaging a moving threat, the weapon may be thumbcocked before trigger control is applied. Consider the following:

- Interrupted trigger control is not recommended when engaging moving threats because the point of aim (lead) will be lost or have to be adjusted if the trigger is held to reassume the proper sight picture.
- When the tracking method is used, there is a tendency to stop tracking as trigger control is applied. This causes the shot to impact behind the moving threat. Trigger control should be uninterrupted while maintaining the lead and continuing to track so the trigger is pressed in one continuous, smooth motion to the rear.
- There is a tendency to interrupt trigger control when the threat is masked from view. This is particularly true in the ambush method for threats that appear to stop and go when moving to and from cover. Trigger control should always be uninterrupted.

Chapter 9
One-Handed Techniques

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions as needed.

One-Handed Presentation and Shooting

In combat, a situation may arise when the Marine must engage a threat by using only one hand because he may need his other hand for other purposes, such as leading, directing, or operating equipment; because his other hand is injured; or because a threat presents itself so quickly and at a close range that the Marine does not have time to establish a two-handed grip and position.

Adjusting the Firing Position

A threat can appear from anywhere. Therefore, the Marine's angle to the threat may need to be adjusted. This adjustment is made by sliding the firing foot forward toward the threat while the pistol is being presented. To fire accurately, the Marine must maintain the same stability and control of the weapon, manage recoil, and recover on the threat as effectively with one hand as with two. To adjust the standing position when firing one-handed, the Marine follows these steps:

1. Increase the muscular tension in the firing arm and bend the elbow slightly so that when the weapon recoils, the arm will give and better manage recoil.

Note: For some Marines, muscular tension in the firing arm and the position of the body in relation to the threat causes them to naturally cant the weapon inboard slightly. During recoil, the elbow breaks or bends as the muzzle climbs. A slight inboard cant of the weapon and firing arm allows a natural bend in the elbow, which enables a better management of recoil and recovery of the sights back on the threat. Any cant should be natural and not caused by excessive muscular tension. A slight cant does not affect shooting performance and should not alter the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship.

2. Apply controlled muscular tension throughout the body to better manage the effects of recoil.
3. Step toward the threat with the firing side foot to assist with managing the effects of recoil.
4. Lean forward aggressively, rolling the shoulders forward and tucking the head into the shoulders.

Note: The following step is done only during training to demonstrate how to stabilize the position and to simulate the Marine's other hand being occupied.

5. Place the support hand in a fist on the center of the torso to increase stability (see fig. 9-1 on page 126).

Figure 9-1. One-Handed Stance.

If the support arm is swinging freely, it will cause a corresponding movement in the pistol, reducing stability and control. Placing the support hand on the torso also ensures it is not covered by the muzzle of the weapon as the weapon is presented.

Deactivating the Safety

When firing one-handed, the safety is deactivated with the firing thumb (see fig. 9-2) once the muzzle clears the holster and is rotated forward.

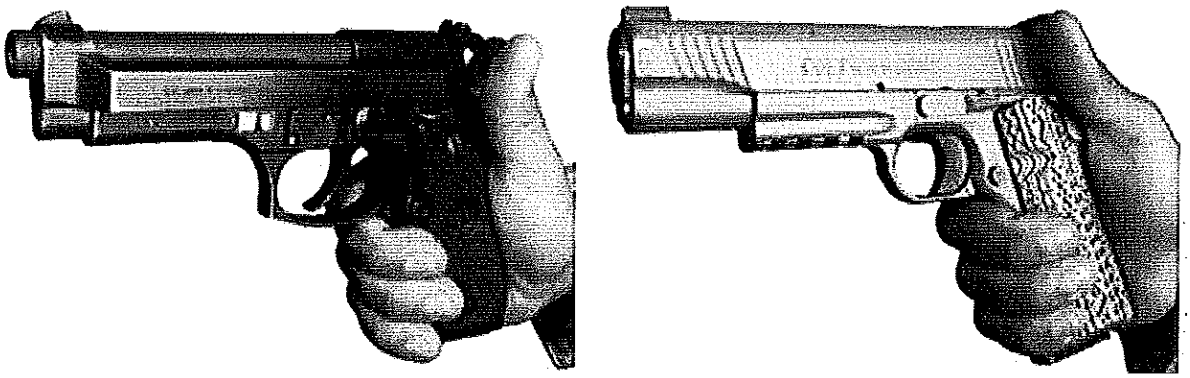


Figure 9-2. Deactivating the Safety with the Firing Thumb.

Searching and Assessing After Firing One-Handed

Following one-handed threat engagement, the Marine must quickly decide whether it would be to his advantage, and if it is possible, to free his occupied hand to place both hands on the pistol to search and assess. Whenever possible, the Marine should place both hands on the weapon to increase stability and to be ready for re-engagement if necessary.

One-Handed Reloading

Marines should become proficient at one-handed pistol reloading and chamber checks.

Speed Reload

When only one hand is available, the speed reload can be performed as follows:

1. Seek cover if the situation permits.
2. Press the magazine release button and allow the magazine to fall to the deck:
    a. When using the firing hand, press the magazine release button with the thumb.
    b. When using the support hand, press the magazine release button with the trigger finger.
3. With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, position the pistol to facilitate loading the magazine. Depending on the firing position, this can be accomplished using one of the following methods:
    a. In the Holster. Place the pistol in the holster (see fig. 9-3).

Figure 9-3. Placing Pistol in the Holster.

    b. Between the Thighs. Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces up and the muzzle of the weapon is pointed away from the body. Place the pistol between the thighs or knees and apply pressure to hold the pistol in place (see fig. 9-4 on page 128). This can be accomplished in the standing position and as in the two-kneed kneeling position. In the standing position, the Marine will need to bend slightly at the knees to secure the pistol between the thighs.

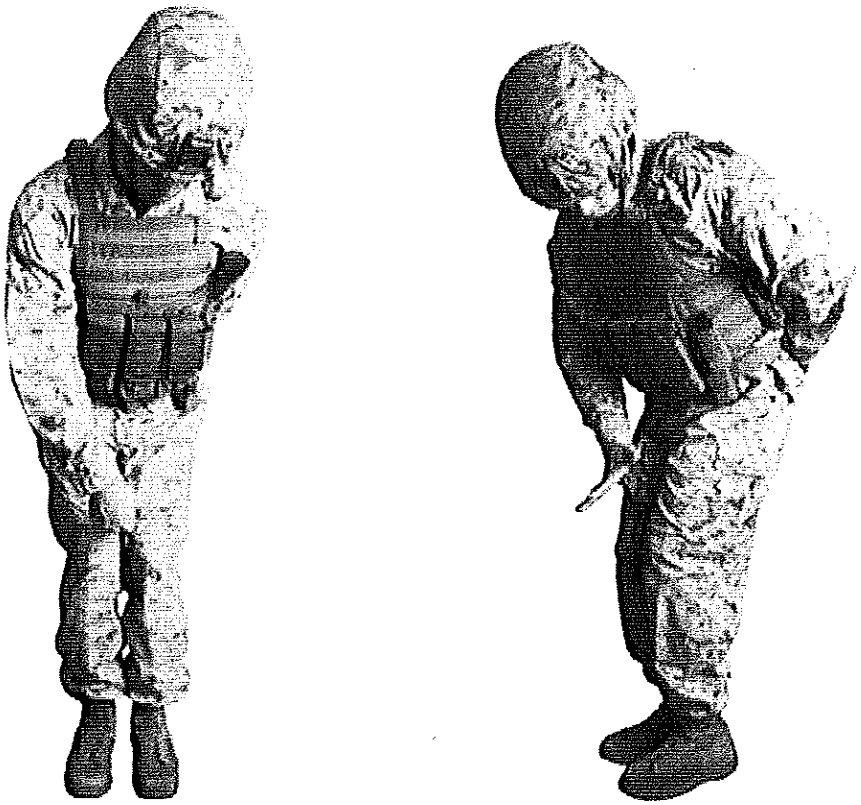


Figure 9-4. Placing Pistol between the Thighs.

c. In the Bend of the Knee. Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces outboard and the muzzle is pointed away from the body. Place the rear portion of the slide in the bend of the firing-side knee and apply pressure with the leg to hold the pistol in place (see fig. 9-5). This can be accomplished in the kneeling position.

Figure 9-5. Placing Pistol in Bend of Knee.

4. Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket and insert it into the magazine well, seating it with the heel of the hand.
5. Grasp the pistol grip and remove the pistol from its secured location.
6. Press the slide release to allow the slide to move forward and chamber a round:
    a. When using the firing hand, press the slide release with the thumb.
    b. When using the support hand, press the slide release with the index finger.

Tactical Reload

When only one hand is available, a tactical reload can be performed as follows:

1. With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, position the pistol to allow for removal of the magazine, such as in the holster, between the thighs, in the bend of the knee, tucked in the belt, or on the deck against the body. Any position is correct if it allows the magazine well to be exposed.
2. Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket.
3. Press the magazine release button and remove the magazine from the pistol:
    a. When using the firing hand, press the magazine release button with the thumb.
    b. When using the support hand, press the magazine release button with the index finger.
4. Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well, seating it with the heel of the hand.
5. Stow the partially filled magazine (e.g., inside the belt, in the cargo pocket).
6. Grasp the pistol grip and remove the weapon from its secured location, keeping the trigger finger straight and off the trigger until ready to fire.

One-Handed Chamber Check

Check the round indicator or perform a chamber check to determine if there is a round in the chamber. Use the following technique to perform a chamber check one-handed:

1. Keeping the thumb in place around the back strap of the pistol, rotate the fingers of the firing hand over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight.
2. Pull the slide to the rear by pushing forward with the thumb and pulling back on the rear sight with the fingers.
3. Hold the slide to the rear with the firing hand just enough to visually inspect the chamber for a round (see fig. 9-6 on page 130).
4. Release tension to allow the slide to go forward. Ensure the slide is all the way forward.

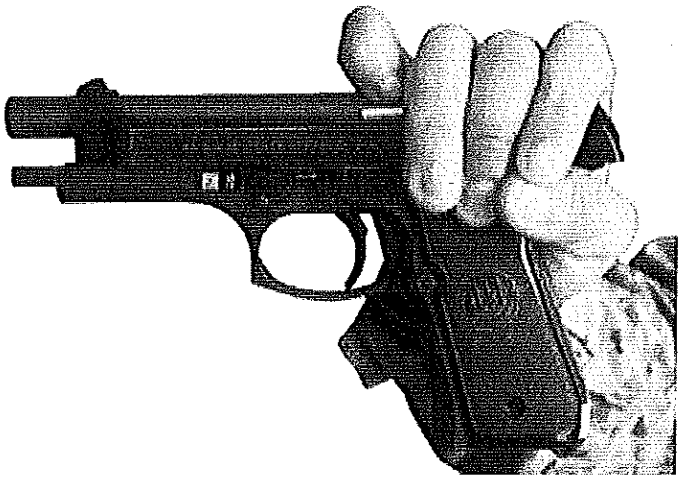


Figure 9-6. One-Handed Chamber Check.

Immediate and Remedial Action Procedures

These actions consist of the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation through immediate or remedial action. There is no one set of procedures that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the service pistol. Once the pistol ceases firing, the Marine must seek cover (if the tactical situation permits or requires) and visually or physically inspect the chamber area to identify the problem. These procedures are more difficult in one-handed operations and will take more time than two-handed procedures.

One-Handed Immediate Action

Immediate action is an un-hesitating response to a stoppage and consists of Tap, Rack, Bang. To return the weapon to operation using immediate action procedures:

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Bring the weapon into your workspace while maintaining downrange observation.
    a. **TAP:** Keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and placing the trigger finger straight along the receiver, strike the bottom of the magazine against a hard surface to ensure it is seated. *In the standing position,* bring the firing-side knee up while striking the magazine against the firing-side thigh or the holster (see fig. 9-7 on page 131). *In the kneeling position*, strike the magazine against the thigh or the holster (see fig. 9-8 on page 131). *In the prone position*, strike the magazine against the deck.

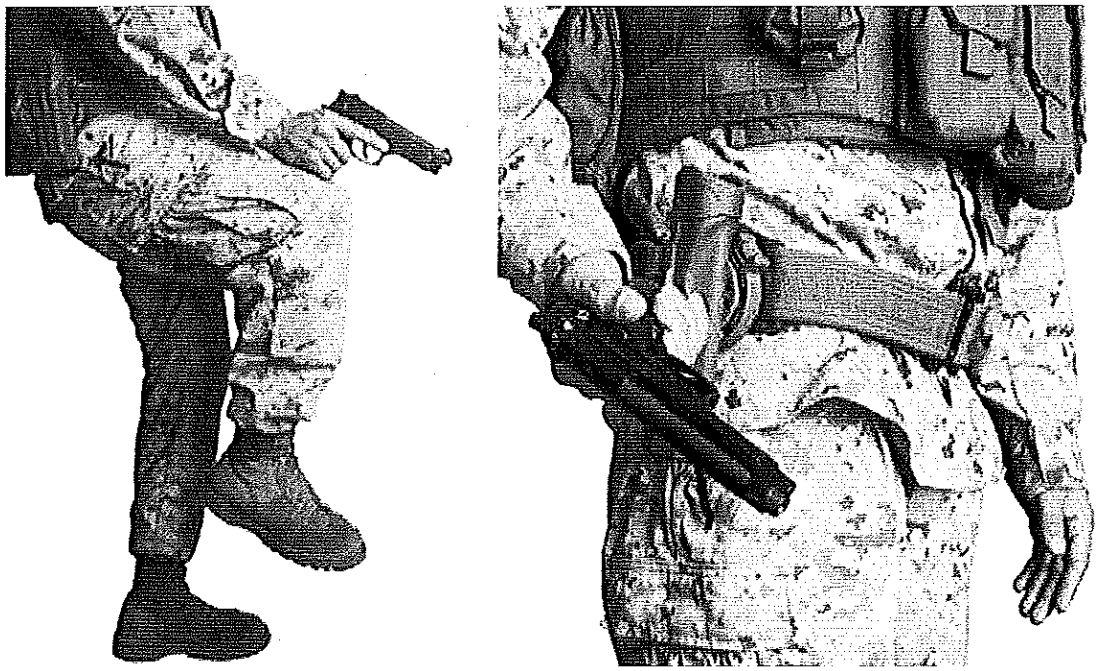


Figure 9-7. One-Handed Tap Method - Standing.

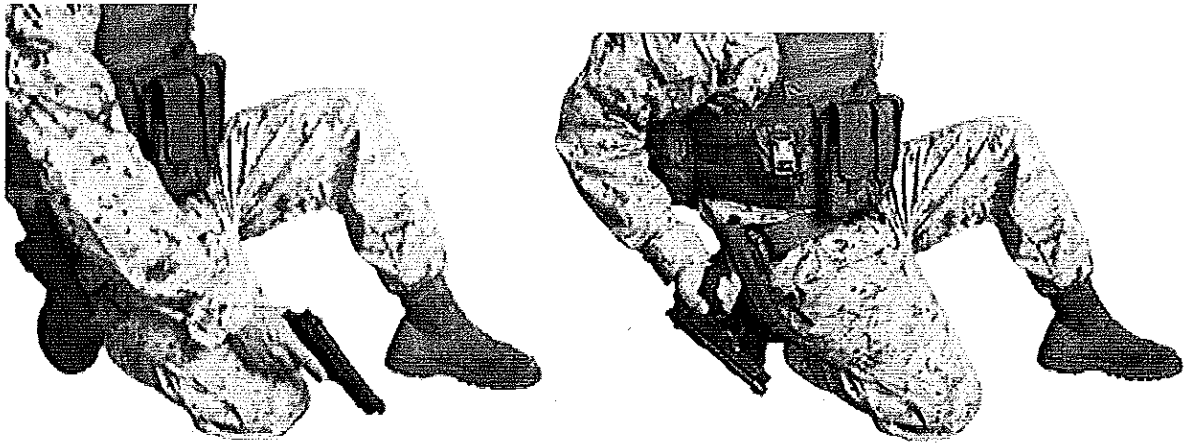


Figure 9-8. One-Handed Tap Method - Kneeling.

b. **RACK:** To move the slide to the rear, the Marine must place the pistol against a surface that will provide enough resistance to permit him to rack the slide fully to the rear and chamber a round. Rotate the pistol so the rear sight (front sight for M45A1) can be hooked on the top of the holster or any other surface (e.g., heal of the boot, belt, edge of a table, or wall) (see figs. 9-9 and 9-10 and page 132) that will provide the resistance needed to rack the slide in a smooth, uninterrupted motion. Do not let the muzzle of the weapon cover the body. Apply pressure on the pistol to keep the sight secured while pushing downward on the pistol to move the slide fully to the rear. Release pressure on the pistol to chamber a round.

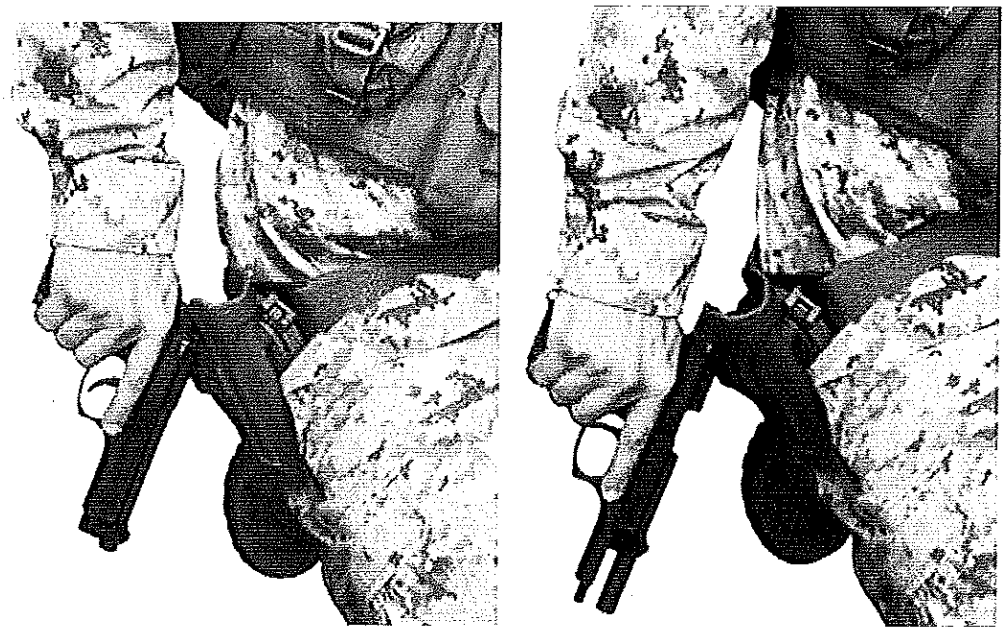


Figure 9-9. One-Handed Rack Method - Holster.

Figure 9-10. One-Handed Rack Method - Boot.

c. **BANG:** Re-establish a one-handed firing grip, recover the pistol on the threat, re-establish sight alignment/sight picture and attempt to fire (see fig. 9-11 on page 133).

Figure 9-11. One-Handed Bang.

One-Handed Remedial Action

Remedial action is performed when a stoppage isn't cleared by immediate action. To return the weapon to operation using remedial action procedures:

- Seek cover.
- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Bring the weapon into your workspace while maintaining downrange observation.
- Lock the slide to the rear. Secure the rear sight (see fig. 9-12 on page 134) or the front site for the M45A1 (see fig. 9-13 on page 134) on the edge of the holster, top of the belt, or any other surface that will provide the resistance needed to stabilize the pistol. While applying pressure on the pistol to keep the sight secured, push downward on the pistol in one continuous motion to lock the slide to the rear.

Note: Ensure the weapon does not go on safe when locking the slide to the rear.

- Press the magazine release button and strip the magazine out of the magazine well.
- Cycle the slide three to four times to clear the chamber.
- Conduct a one-handed reload ensuring the magazine is fully seated (see page 127).
- Rack the slide to chamber the next round.
- Re-establish a one-handed firing grip, recover the pistol on the threat, re-establish sight alignment/sight picture and attempt to fire.

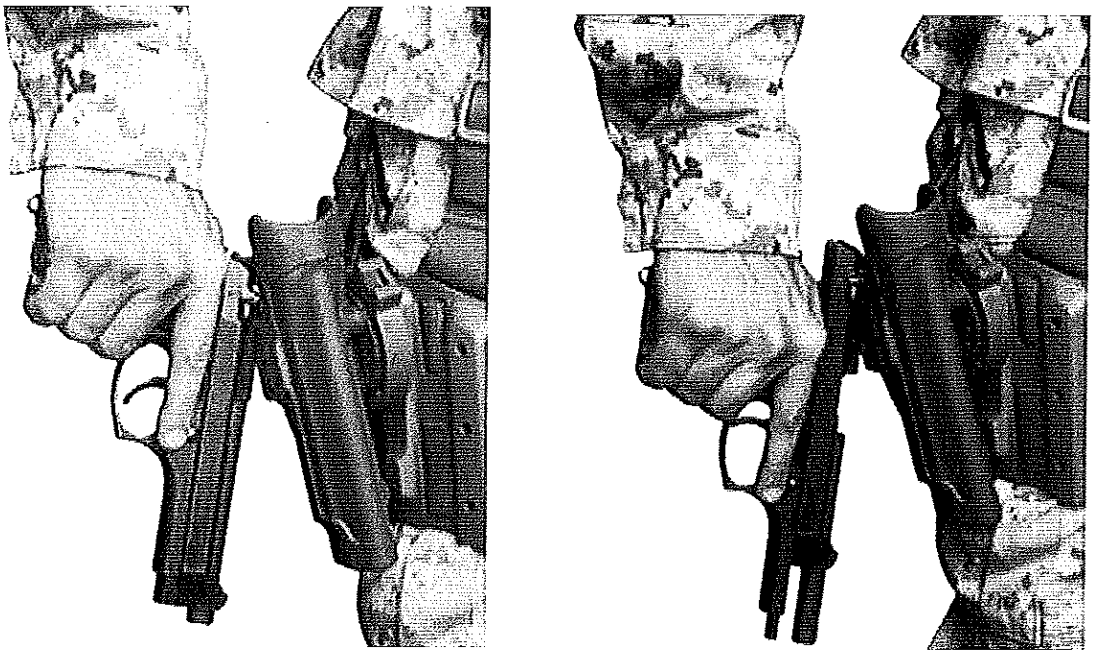


Figure 9-12. One-Handed Remedial Action Using Rear Sight.

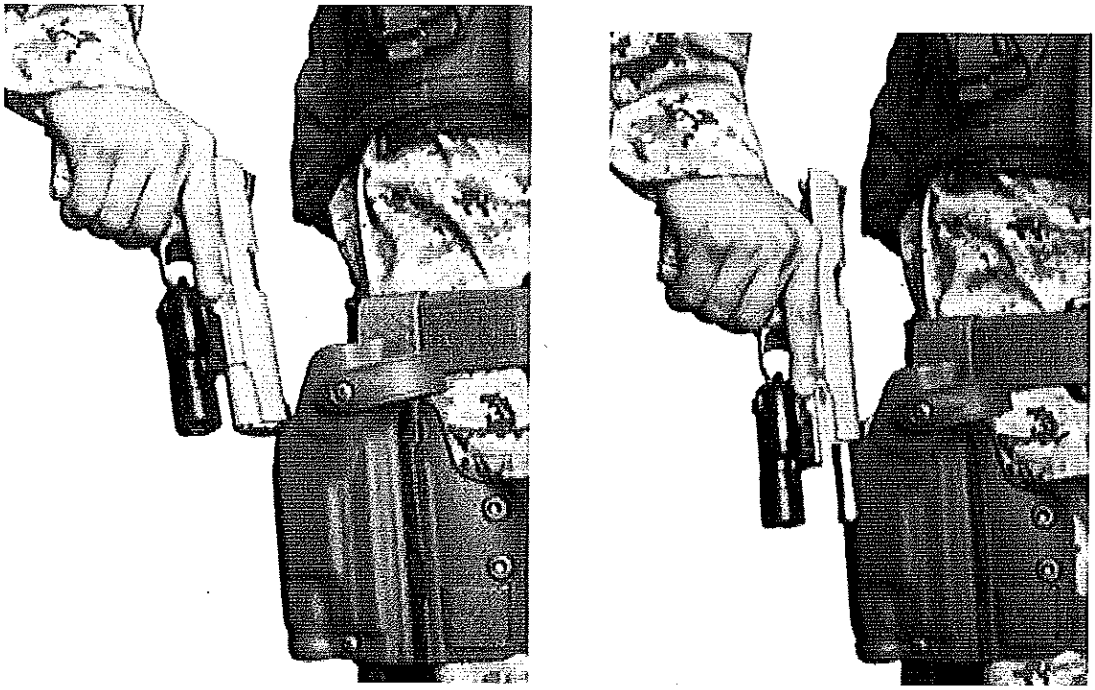


Figure 9-13. One-Handed Remedial Action Using Front Sight.

Presentation from the Holster with the Support Hand

During combat, the Marine must be prepared to engage threats at any time. Therefore, the Marine must have the ability to present the pistol from the holster with his support hand if circumstances prevent him from using his firing hand. He must apply the same smooth,

controlled movement to present the pistol to the threat. There are two methods for withdrawing the pistol from the holster with the support hand. The Marine should practice each method – pistol rotation and knee placement – to determine which works best for him.

Method One: Pistol Rotation

Practice the following steps to become proficient at the pistol rotation method:

1. Press the retention release button on the holster with the middle finger of the support hand (see fig. 9-14).

Figure 9-14. Method One: Release Retention Tab.

2. Grasp the pistol so the index finger and thumb are around the base of it (see fig. 9-15).

Figure 9-15. Method One: Grasp the Pistol.

3. Draw the pistol straight up until the trigger guard clears the top of the holster (see fig. 9-16).

Figure 9-16. Method One: Clearing Trigger Guard.

4. Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces the threat and the trigger guard rests on top of the holster. Ensure the trigger guard rests securely against the top of the holster (see fig. 9-17).

Figure 9-17. Method One: Rotating the Pistol.

5. Maintain downward pressure on the pistol and slide the support hand around the pistol grip to establish a firing grip (see fig. 9-18 on page 137).

Figure 9-18. Method One: Establishing the Firing Grip.

6. Grasp the pistol and continue to withdraw until the muzzle clears the holster, and then rotate the muzzle toward the threat.
7. Deactivate the safety with the thumb of the support hand while starting to extend the pistol out toward the threat.
8. Establish a firing grip and continue to extend the pistol out toward the threat. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.
9. Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

Method Two: Knee Placement

This method is particularly effective when firing from the two-knee kneeling position and the standing position:

1. Press the retention release button on the holster with the middle finger of the support hand (see fig. 9-14 on page 135) as in method one.
2. Grasp the pistol grip so the index finger and thumb are around the base of it (see fig. 9-15 on page 135) as in method one.
3. Draw the pistol straight up until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle forward. The magazine well should face forward (see fig. 9-19 on page 136).

Figure 9-19. Method Two: Drawing the Pistol.

4. Place the pistol between the thighs, applying enough tension to keep the pistol in place. Ensure not to deactivate the safety while performing this motion and that the muzzle of the pistol is clear of the body. In the standing position, the Marine bends slightly at the knees to facilitate securing the pistol between the thighs (see fig. 9-20).

Figure 9-20. Method Two: Securing the Pistol between the Thighs.

5. Remove the support hand from the pistol grip and rotate the hand around the pistol grip to establish a firing grip (see fig. 9-21 on page 139).

Figure 9-21. Method Two: Establishing the Firing Grip.

6. Grasp the pistol grip and remove the pistol from the thighs, rotating the pistol until the muzzle is pointed toward the threat.
7. Deactivate the safety with the thumb of the support hand while starting to extend the pistol out toward the threat.
8. Establish a firing grip and continue to extend the pistol out toward the threat. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.
9. Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other

Situations may arise in combat when it is beneficial for the Marine to transfer the pistol to the support hand to engage a threat because the firing hand or arm is injured. To safely transfer the pistol from one hand to the other, perform the following steps:

Note: This procedure is written to transfer the pistol from the firing hand to the support hand.

1. With the muzzle pointed in the direction of the threat, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
2. With the support hand, place the web between the index finger and thumb under the back strap of the pistol.
3. Wrap the fingers of the support hand around the pistol grip while releasing the grip of the firing hand.
4. Establish a firing grip with the support hand on the pistol.

Chapter 10
Engaging Threats in Low Light and Darkness

An effective combat marksman must be prepared to detect and engage threats under a variety of conditions. Such factors as terrain and opportunity often dictate that the Marine engage threats at night or under low-light conditions. Marines must not only employ the fundamentals of marksmanship for engagement of threats in low light and darkness just as they do in daylight, but they must also apply the principles of night vision and threat detection when engaging threats at night.

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions as needed.

Night Vision

Night Vision Adaptation

To adapt to darkness, Marines must acquire night vision, which they can do by using one of two methods. The first method is to remain in an area of darkness, whether indoors or outdoors, for about 30 minutes. The major disadvantage of this approach is an individual is not able to perform any tasks while acquiring night vision in total darkness.

The second method is to remain in a darkened area under low intensity red light (similar to the light in a photographer's darkroom) for about 20 minutes, followed by about 10 minutes in darkness without the red light. This method produces almost complete night vision adaptation while permitting the performance of some tasks during the adjustment period.

Night Vision Maintenance

Because the eyes take a long time to adjust to darkness, it is important to consider the following to protect night vision once it is acquired:

- Avoid looking at any bright light. Shield the eyes from parachute flares, spotlights, or headlights.
- When using a flashlight to read a map or other material, put one hand over the glass to limit the area illuminated and the intensity of the light. Keeping one eye shut will reduce the amount of night vision lost.
- Cover the light with a red filter to help reduce the loss of night vision.

How Night Vision is Affected

Some physical factors can affect night vision and reduce the ability to see clearly in low light or darkness. These factors include the following:

- Fatigue.
- Lack of oxygen.
- Long exposure to sunlight.
- Heavy smoking.
- Drugs.
- Headaches.
- Illness.
- Consumption of alcohol within the past 48 hours.
- Improper diet.

Threat Detection in Low Light and Darkness

Human Eye

To employ threat detection techniques, it is important to understand how the human eye operates. The eye functions much like a camera: receiving, focusing, and organizing the light that enters it. The retina processes the light and translates it into recognizable objects. The retina contains cells known as cones and rods (see fig.10-1).

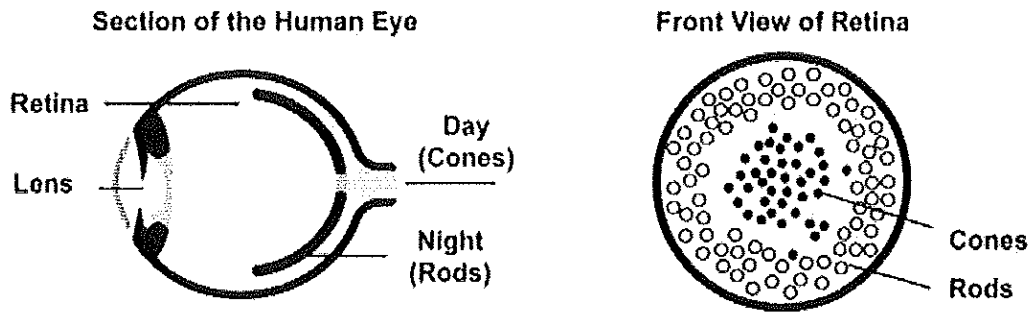


Figure 10-1. Human Eye.

Cones
The cones are mostly in the center of the retina. These cells need light to function properly and provide day vision. The cones enable the identification of color, shape, and contrast.

Rods
The rods are grouped around the cones and are very sensitive to light. Rods function in darkness and provide the ability to see at night. Rods are not capable of processing color, which is why the ability to distinguish colors is diminished at night; we can usually see only black, white, shades of gray, and general outlines. Rod cells are weak and tire quickly.

Threat Detection Techniques

The Marine must keep both eyes open to get maximum visual coverage of the threat area. Keeping both eyes open also improves depth perception and peripheral vision.

Off-center Vision
Because of the placement of the cones in the center of the retina and the rods around the edges, the angle at which you observe an object at night will affect how well you can see it. Off-center vision is the technique of keeping the attention focused on an object without looking directly at it (see fig. 10-2 on page 142). This technique maximizes the use of the rods that provide night vision:

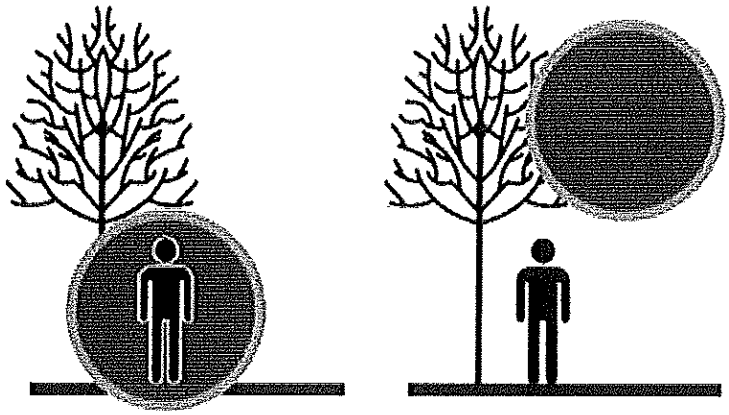


Figure 10-2. Off-center Vision.

- Never look directly at the object you are observing.
- Look slightly to the left, right, above, or below the object. Experiment and practice to find the best off-center angle for you. For most people, it is about 6 to 10 degrees away from the object, or about a fist's width at arm's length.

Scanning/Figure Eight Scan

Scanning is the use of off-center vision to observe an area or object and involves slowly moving the eyes in a series of separate movements across the objective area. It is important to move the eyes in a figure eight pattern in short, abrupt, irregular movements over and around the area (see fig. 10-3). Once a threat indicator has been detected, your focus should be concentrated in that area, but not directly at it. Also consider the following:

- It is more effective to scan from a prone position or a position closer to the ground than the object being observed. This will create a silhouetted view of the object.
- When scanning an area, look and listen for the same threat indicators as in daylight: movement, improper camouflage, and sound. Objects in bright moonlight/starlight cast shadows just as in sunlight. Sound always seems to be louder at night than during the day.

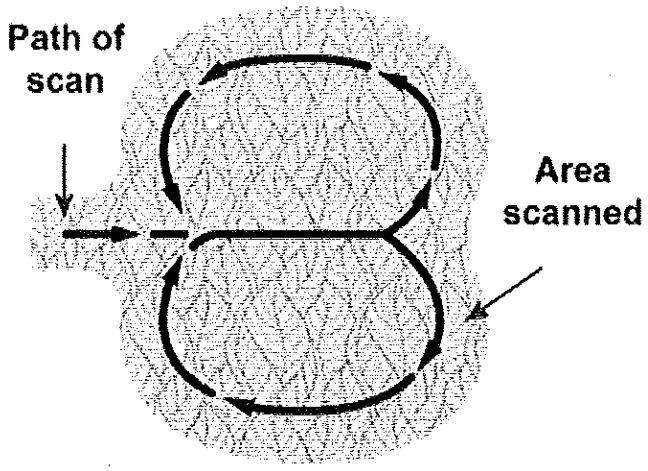


Figure 10-3. Figure Eight Scan.

Effects of Illumination

Both ambient (natural) light and artificial illumination can affect the Marine's perception of threat distance and size, as well as his night vision. The following considerations will affect threat detection and engagement, albeit to a lesser extent at the close ranges of pistol engagements:

- Light between you and the threat will illuminate the front of the threat and make it appear closer than it actually is.
- Light beyond the threat will display the threat in silhouette and make it appear farther away than it actually is.
- The introduction of light requires the eyes to make a sudden, drastic adjustment to the amount of light received. This can cause the temporary blinding effect that is experienced when night vision is interrupted abruptly. Ambient light can also have this blinding effect, for instance, when a bright moon suddenly appears from behind clouds.

Flashlights

The primary objective of using a flashlight in low light and darkness is to identify and illuminate threats. The secondary objective of using a flashlight is to acquire sight picture. Flashlights can come in just about any level of power output, size, shape, or color.

Tactical Flashlight Features

High-output Beam

Bright, smooth light is the goal. The beam must be free from dark rings and spots that would give a threat the opportunity to see through the beam. A spot-free beam requires a flashlight that has been pre-focused (i.e., not an adjustable beam). The beam should be bright enough to momentarily blind and unbalance the threat on which it is being shined.

Lighting Functions

Tactical flashlights can operate in a constant-on mode, a momentary mode, or a strobe mode. A strobe mode is used to disrupt vision and/or disorient a threat. When using a flashlight that has both constant-on and momentary functions, strong pressure is generally required to activate the constant-on mode. This prevents the user from inadvertently activating the constant-on setting when he wants to operate the light momentarily.

Easy to Operate Activation Switch

A tactical flashlight must be able to be easily controlled in the dark in a high stress situation. Adrenaline overload leads to a loss of dexterity and a reduced ability to focus on anything other than the immediate threat. For this reason a tactical flashlight must have a switch that is easy to find in the dark and easy to turn on and off when needed. Switch placement, whether on the tailcap or body, should allow for manipulation/operation of the weapon:

- **Tailcap Switch.** A momentary pushbutton switch located on the tailcap of the flashlight is easy to find and manipulate under stress. This is because the thumb naturally falls on the tailcap as part of the process of unholstering the light. Removing the thumb automatically turns the light to OFF, eliminating the chance that the light will inadvertently remain on.
- **Body Switch.** A body switch may be activated with the thumb or finger depending on its placement on the flashlight and the engagement technique employed.

Reliable Power Source

The tactical flashlight must have a reliable high-energy power source. For purely tactical applications, flashlights driven by disposable lithium batteries are recommended. Lithium batteries produce more power than alkaline or rechargeable batteries relative to their size. Also, lithium batteries have a ten-year storage life.

Weapon-mounted Lights

A weapon-mounted light is a flashlight that attaches to either a weapon's accessory rail or by some other means (see fig. 10-4). Once the light is attached to the weapon, it only requires the use of a finger to turn it on or off, providing the Marine with the use of both hands for weapon manipulation. A weapon-mounted light ensures the beam is aligned with the bore of the weapon, so, wherever the weapon is aimed, the light may be used to illuminate the threat area. Conversely, once the light is attached to the weapon, the Marine cannot use the light without pointing the weapon at the object they wish to illuminate.

Figure 10-4. Weapon-mounted Light.

Tactical Light Carriage and Placement Considerations

Handheld Flashlights

For pistol employment, the flashlight is generally carried on the shooter's support side so the flashlight can be drawn simultaneously with the pistol. The flashlight should be placed behind and outboard of magazines to minimize interference and/or confusion during a reload.

Mounted Flashlights

The Marine Corps holster does not accommodate a weapon with a flashlight mounted to it. Mission-specific holsters are available as alternatives to the Marine Corps holster that will accommodate a pistol with a mounted flashlight.

Flashlight Techniques for Threat Detection

Searching for Threats

A flashlight is useful for quick identification of a possible threat. With one brief flash of light, a skilled Marine is able to form a mental picture of the area, make positive identification of threats and obstacles, and process the combat situation.

Hasty Search

Immediately upon entering a new area, the Marine must search for enemy activity that poses immediate danger. When using a flashlight to detect threats, the Marine should first conduct a hasty search of the area to identify threat indicators. To do so, he quickly scans the area with the flashlight, noting obvious points throughout the area that could cover or conceal the enemy. Wherever his eyes move, the flashlight should move. He begins by aiming the flashlight beam on the ground about 8 to 10 feet in front of his location. This allows his eyes to follow the beam and quickly establish a reference point for the light. Conversely, aiming the beam at the outer edge of the search area strains the eyes to find the beam, which decreases the field of view.

Detailed Search

The Marine should follow up with a detailed search conducted on threat indicators that were identified during the hasty search. To do so, the Marine focuses the most direct or intense portion of the flashlight beam on the threat indicators. He then moves the beam of light slowly across the threat indicator from right to left or left to right. Wherever the eyes move, the flashlight should move.

Read the Light and Adapt

Upon entering a low-light threat environment, assess the varying levels of light. (Is it completely dark, or are parts of the environment partially lit? Most importantly, is anyone backlit by a door, window, or other light source?)

A guiding principle is that all dark spaces contain threats, and should be treated as such until proven otherwise. A proper assessment of the prevailing lighting conditions will dictate whether to use a light intermittently (flashes of light) or to leave it on constantly (wall of light) to equalize the lighting conditions.

Operate From the Lowest Level of Light

As a general rule, darker areas provide more concealment than operating in brighter areas. The idea is that time in light equals time as a target: reduce the threat's ability to see while improving your own, and do so without being seen.

Avoid or Control Backlighting

Backlight is produced naturally by sunrise, sunset, or moonlight and may be artificially produced by street lights, vehicle lights, or other light sources. Backlighting creates an immediate silhouette of whatever object/person is being backlit (see fig. 10-5 on page 146), so it should be avoided. In a low-light environment, those backlit are most visible and vulnerable so Marines should consider the following:

- Do not stop in doorways.
- Do not turn your flashlight on behind another Marine.
- Recognize the danger of entering a dark room from a well-lighted hall, or a dark building during the day.

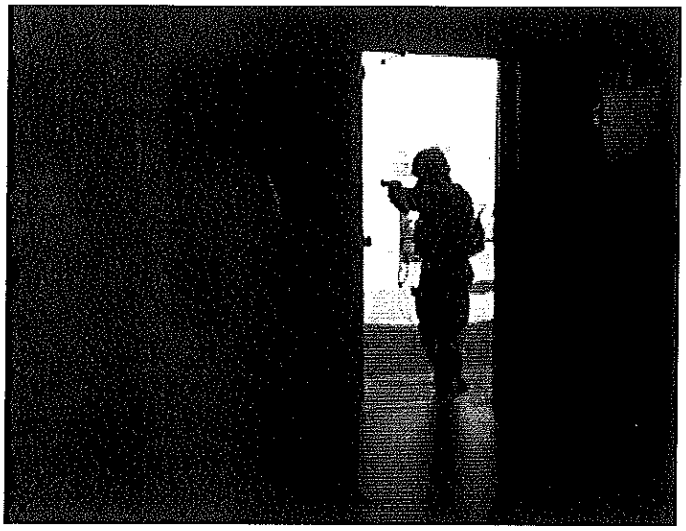


Figure 10-5. Backlighting.

Light and Move

While the flashlight can give a tactical advantage, it can also become a liability by making it easy for a threat to locate and/or fix one's position. A continuous beam of light reveals direction of focus, distance, and location. Lights should be used to momentarily illuminate a threat when moving to a firing position. The key concept is: flash the light, move, shoot.

Intermittent Use of Light at Random Heights

When searching for threats, holding the flashlight in a fixed position is not recommended because it will indicate your position to a threat. Activating the light away from centerline at intermittent and irregular intervals while alternating the light between low and high positions can confuse the threat. This makes it harder for the threat to determine one's position. The strobe effect of intermittent light use can further disorient a threat. This technique is employed with a handheld flashlight. Light discipline should be maintained at all times.

Flashlight Techniques for Threat Engagement

At short distances, a properly-adjusted light can improve combat accuracy in low-light conditions when used in conjunction with proper combat marksmanship fundamentals.

Use a Combat Mindset

In the stress of the combat environment, Marines must eliminate any hesitation, fear, or uncertainty of action, focusing instead on the actions to fire well-aimed shots. This is especially important during low light and darkness when attention is more easily diverted than in the daytime because vision is reduced. This may create a shock of awareness as the Marine relies more heavily on his other senses. Every noise, movement, and muzzle blast appears intensified at night. The physical acts of shooting must become second nature to the Marine, so his focus will not be diverted from firing well-aimed shots. This is accomplished through mental preparedness and training until shooting actions become instinctive.

Dominate with Light

Dominating with light means using white light to flood threat areas, disorient threats, and control

light conditions. Directing the beam of a sufficiently powerful flashlight into the dark-adapted eyes of a threat will temporarily blind the threat, giving the Marine the advantage to react before the threat does. Consider the following:

- When a Marine is backlit, the Marine is already visible to the threat and should use the light as a blinding and unbalancing tool to increase the chances of delivering fire before the threat can react. Dominating with constant light will reduce one's silhouette. In situations where one is not backlit, intermittent lighting is the better choice.
- When the threat has been located and is not an immediate threat (i.e., not in a position to accurately open fire), the Marine should keep the light on and focused on the individual. Turning the light off at this point only gives the threat the opportunity to move to another position, forcing the Marine to begin the search again.

Telegraphing Position

You must exercise caution to prevent telegraphing, or giving away, your position to the threat due to improper use of a light. With handheld lights, Marines may experience difficulty in aligning and locating the flood of the light. Marines often will activate the light too early, point the light in front of them, and trace the light beam from themselves to the threat, essentially telegraphing their position to the threat rather than immediately dominating with light.

To prevent this, proper training and repetition is needed to align a handheld light as parallel as possible to the line of pistol's bore. Light activation must not occur before this point (unless passively scanning with a handheld light). Additionally, particularly with a weapon-mounted light, early activation of a light can illuminate a Marine prior him identifying the threat.

Align Weapon, Flashlight, and Eyes

The weapon, flashlight, and eyes should be aligned to the same point of focus when searching for or engaging a threat. If the threat is located with eyes and flashlight, but the weapon is down and out of the fight, there will be no time to bring all three together if engaged by the threat. This does not suggest that the weapon is always presented in a firing position while searching. Let the threat level and unit protocol determine weapon presentation.

Use Light to Acquire Sight Picture

Flashlight

The primary objective of using a flashlight in low light and darkness is to identify and illuminate threats. A secondary objective is to acquire sight picture. When a threat is illuminated by a flashlight, the sights may become silhouetted against the threat, providing the sight picture needed to engage him.

Ambient Light

Ambient light may be used to acquire sight picture. However, if the sights are placed on a dark background, such as a camouflaged threat, the Marine may not be able to acquire and align the sights clearly. He may have to rely almost entirely on his presentation and stance to get the weapon on the threat. Follow these steps to check for sight alignment or to acquire the sights:

1. Move the pistol just off the edge of the threat to an area that provides a good contrast.
2. Acquire sight alignment.
3. Bring the sights back in line with the threat while applying pressure to the trigger so the shot breaks once the sights are on the threat.

Handheld Flashlight Employment Techniques

As not all Marines armed with a service pistol have the benefit of a light rail on the weapon, handheld lights must still be used. Handheld lights are beneficial for passive searches in situations when a drawn pistol is not warranted, but they present unique challenges during employment of the service pistol. Naturally, the support hand is occupied with operation of the light, but is still needed to perform speed and tactical reloads as well as immediate and remedial action. As a result, normal weapon manipulations are affected in various manners. All of the techniques do require the Marine to have a firm grasp of the fundamentals, particularly trigger control. Once the support hand loses normal contact with the pistol, fundamental marksmanship errors are magnified.

Methods of Flashlight Retention

Reholstering

A Marine may deactivate and temporarily reholster a handheld light and proceed with necessary weapon manipulations. This action enables the Marine to have one set of manipulations, but takes more time to perform any singe action.

Armpit

A Marine may deactivate a handheld light and immediately tuck the light under his firing-arm armpit (he must consider how he will regain a grip on the light), and proceed with necessary weapon manipulations (see fig. 10-6). Given that the tricep of the firing arm is pinned against the body, the weapon workspace will be far closer than normal, and require the shooter to possess a high degree of dexterity in order to find the magazine well in the dark.

Figure 10-6. Armpit Retention.

Mouth

A Marine may place the tail cap of the light in his mouth and proceed with necessary weapon manipulations. This is a very fast technique, but a Marine must take care to deactivate the light so as to not illuminate his own hands and weapon.

WARNING

Lights running off of lithium batteries can get hot and cause minor burns.

Knee

A Marine may come to a kneeling position and place the light in the crook of the knee (see fig. 10-7). This technique offers a very secure hold of the light but results in limited mobility for a period of time.

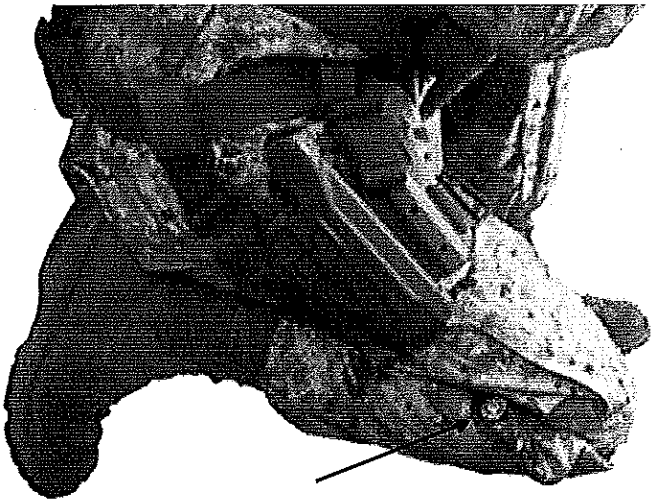


Figure 10-7. Knee Retention.

Dagger Grip Technique

Supported Dagger Grip

This variation permits additional support of the weapon and management of recoil because the hands are together. However, it sacrifices flexibility in application because both hands must stay together. Follow these steps to employ the supported dagger grip technique (see fig. 10-8):

Figure 10-8. Supported Dagger Grip Technique.

1. Grasp the flashlight with the support hand in a dagger grip, with the fingers wrapped around the top of the flashlight and the thumb wrapped around the bottom.
2. While maintaining a firm grip on the flashlight, place the thumb (tailcap switch) or finger (body switch) on the activation switch.
3. Extend both arms toward the threat and bring the support hand under the pistol so the back of the support hand is resting firmly against the back of the firing hand. Apply isometric pressure against both hands to aid in stabilizing the pistol. The right arm is fully extended and the left arm is bent at the elbow.

Unsupported Dagger Grip

In this variation of the dagger grip technique, the hands are apart. While this technique does not provide additional support for stabilizing the sights and managing recoil, this technique is effective for searching for threats and acquiring sight picture. This technique prevents the Marine's flashlight from "marking" his exact position. By moving the light away from the Marine's body, a threat that shoots at the light will be less likely to hit the Marine. This technique has proven to be very effective for room clearing and dynamic, close quarter's engagements, as it allows the light to be activated away from the body at varying heights without changing the position of the weapon in the firing hand. This type of technique gives the Marine greater options when shooting around cover and when moving laterally while firing. Follow these steps to employ the unsupported dagger grip technique (see fig. 10-9):

Figure 10-9. Unsupported Dagger Grip Technique.

1. Grasp the flashlight with the support hand in a dagger grip, with the fingers wrapped around the top of the flashlight and the thumb wrapped around the bottom.
2. While maintaining a firm grip on the flashlight, place the thumb (tailcap switch) or finger (body switch) on the activation switch.
3. Extend the support hand away from the body and the firing hand. Hold the flashlight slightly in front of the body so as not to illuminate yourself.
4. Move and activate the light away from the body at varying heights to search for threats or acquire sights.

Two-Handed Grip Technique

The two-handed grip technique employs both hands for additional support for stabilizing the

sights and managing recoil. It keeps the light in line with the bore of the weapon, which provides a better searching capability while silhouetting the sights against the lighted threat. This technique is effective for firing multiple shots because the flashlight and pistol will recoil as a unit. Follow these steps to employ the two-handed grip technique (see fig. 10-10):

Figure 10.10. Two-handed Grip Technique.

1. Grasp the flashlight with the support hand with the lens pointing downrange. Wrap the thumb and index finger of the support hand around the body of the flashlight.
    a. If the activation switch is on the body of the flashlight, place the thumb to allow easy operation of the activation switch without disrupting the grip on the flashlight.
    b. If the activation switch is on the tailcap, position the support hand so the heel of the hand can activate the switch without disrupting the grip.
2. Extend both arms toward the threat and bring the flashlight alongside the pistol so the fingers of both hands are touching. Wrap the bottom three fingers of the support hand around the fingers of the firing hand, incorporating the flashlight into a two-handed grip. Apply isometric pressure against both hands to aid in stabilizing the pistol.
3. Adjust placement of the flashlight alongside the pistol depending on the size of the flashlight or the location of the activation switch. Whenever possible, the lens of the flashlight should be just in front of the muzzle of the pistol so it does not illuminate the pistol.
4. The pistol and flashlight must be side by side and level so the Marine can readily engage a threat without making adjustments to the pistol or the flashlight. The placement of the support hand will vary depending upon the size of the flashlight and the placement of its activation device.

Neckline Index Technique

The neckline index technique takes the flashlight away from your weapon hand completely. The position of the light is near your cheek so that the light shines where your eyes are looking. This

method offers fast deployment, provides simultaneous illumination of sights and the threat, and easily transitions to and from the unsupported dagger technique. The flashlight always illuminates the direction the Marine is looking and puts the light in a position to use as a defensive weapon. Follow these steps to employ the neckline index technique (see fig. 10-11):

Figure 10.11. Neckline Index Technique.

1. Grasp the flashlight with the support hand in a dagger grip with the fingers wrapped around the top of the flashlight and the thumb wrapped around the bottom.
2. While maintaining a firm grip on the flashlight, place the thumb (tailcap switch) or finger (body switch) on the activation switch.
3. Hold the flashlight right below your ear close to your jaw and neck. If you're holding the flashlight in the correct place, the light beam should illuminate your weapon gun sights as well as any threat you engage.

Chapter 11
Engaging Threats in Close Proximity

Close proximity engagements are those that entail engaging one or more threats within 5 meters or at "hand to hand" combat distances. These engagements may take place with little or no warning and may preclude the use of the support hand if it is occupied by blocking, striking, or controlling the threat. In such cases, Marines will immediately respond with the intent to dominate and ultimately eliminate the threat.

In these situations, there may not be time for full weapon presentation. In addition, full presentation may impact weapon retention if the threat interferes with or attempts to grab the pistol. The proximity of the threat will determine if there is time for one-handed or two-handed engagement. The closer the range, the more likely it is that time will prevent the use of two hands at the outset of the engagement.

Nonstandard Response

A nonstandard response is an engagement technique used when the close proximity or dire nature of the threat negates or outweighs the potential benefits of a "standard response," which is when pausing to assess the threat before re-engaging is warranted. Essentially, the Marine will engage the threat with as many shots fired in rapid succession as possible, until the threat shows no signs of resistance or further actions.

A nonstandard response may begin at step two of presentation (as described in ch. 4), while moving forward, backward, or laterally. Since speed of the initial engagement is the priority, delivery of the first shot should not be refined any further than to hit the threat's torso. Successive shots should be brought toward the upper chest and ultimately the head if closing on the threat.

Methods of Engaging Threats in Close Proximity

Mindset

The Marine's mental focus should be on dominating and eliminating the threat, while minimizing the threat's lethality. Decisions will include whether or not to gain additional fighting space, maintain the current fighting space, or collapse the fighting space to close with and control the threat with one hand while applying deadly force with the other.

Initial Response/Presentation

The Marine should get out of the threat's line of fire while presenting his weapon and engaging with fire as quickly as possible.

Point Shooting

Point shooting is a technique of firing the pistol at a threat without aligning the sights with the shooting eye. The pistol is merely pointed at the threat using either one or both hands. The benefit of this technique is that the pistol can be employed against a threat much faster than bringing the weapon all the way through step four of presentation. The limitation of this technique, accuracy, is sacrificed for the benefit of speed. For this reason, point shooting should only be employed at extreme close ranges and in conjunction with executing a nonstandard response.

To execute the point shooting technique, perform the following:

1. Draw the pistol straight up out of the holster (see fig. 11-1).
2. At the same time, raise the support arm to block, strike, or control the threat as necessary in order to create and maintain the space required to draw the pistol from the holster. Simultaneous with the block or strike, the Marine should angle his body 45 degrees, support side to the threat, in order to create more space for weapon draw and retention (see fig. 11-1).

Note: If using a concealed carry holster, while blocking, striking or controlling the threat, simultaneously sweep the cover garment away to access the pistol.

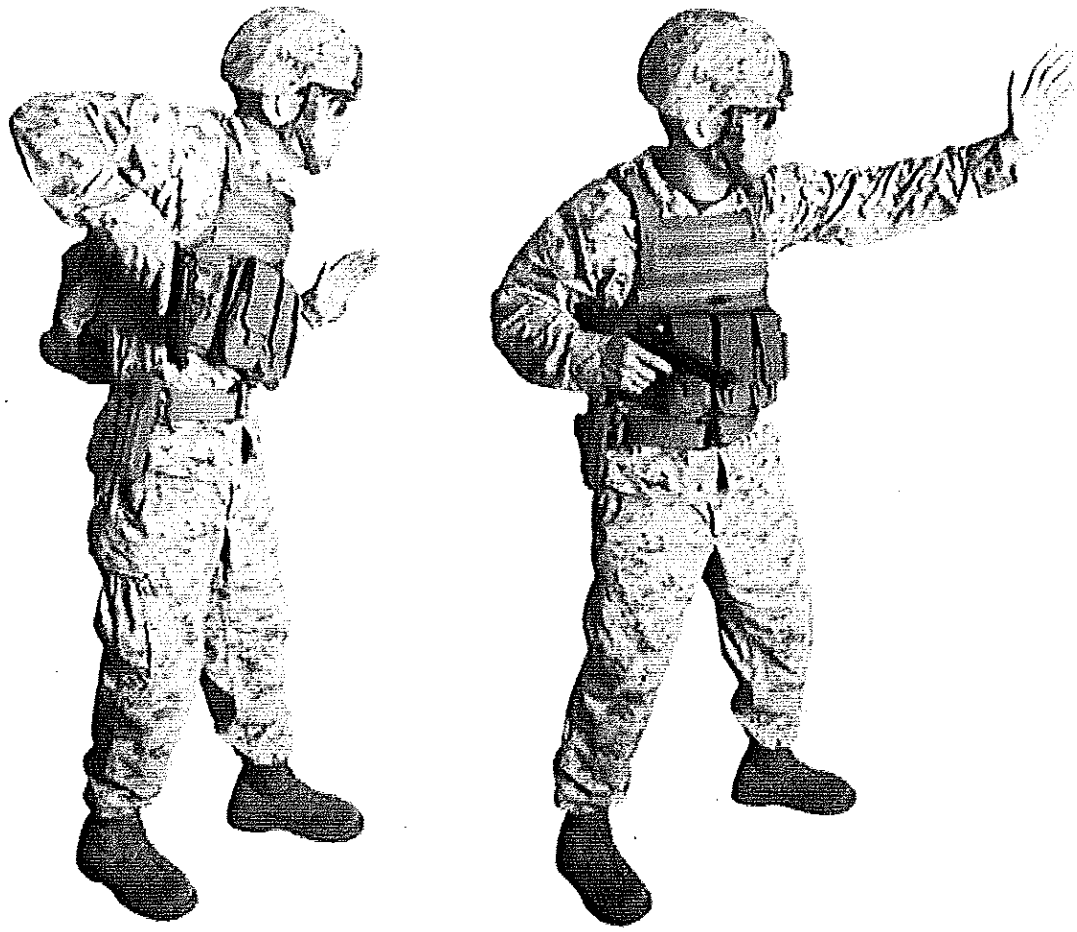


Figure 11-1. Point Shooting Technique Steps One and Two.

WARNING

Ensure the support hand is clear of the muzzle before firing.

3. Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward, bringing it close to the waist with the weapon slightly canted outboard, magazine pressed to your side, as this ensures the slide will not get caught in the Marine's clothing. Deactivate the safety with the firing thumb while rotating the muzzle forward (see fig. 11-2 on page 155).

WARNING

If using a chest rig once the muzzle clears the holster, immediately rotate pistol towards the threat while keeping the support hand clear of the muzzle before firing.

Figure 11-2. Point Shooting Technique Step Three.

4. Press the trigger as soon as the weapon is pointed toward the threat's torso. The firing arm is bent at the elbow and the forearm and weapon are parallel to the deck (see fig. 11-3 on page 156). Ideally the shot should break the moment the weapon is leveled at the threat.
5. As the situation permits, retract the support hand to the center chest and bring the weapon and firing hand toward the chest as well, establishing a two-handed grip. Continue firing while bringing the weapon and arms to full extension, ultimately achieving sight alignment as in a standard presentation/engagement (see fig. 11-3 on page 156).

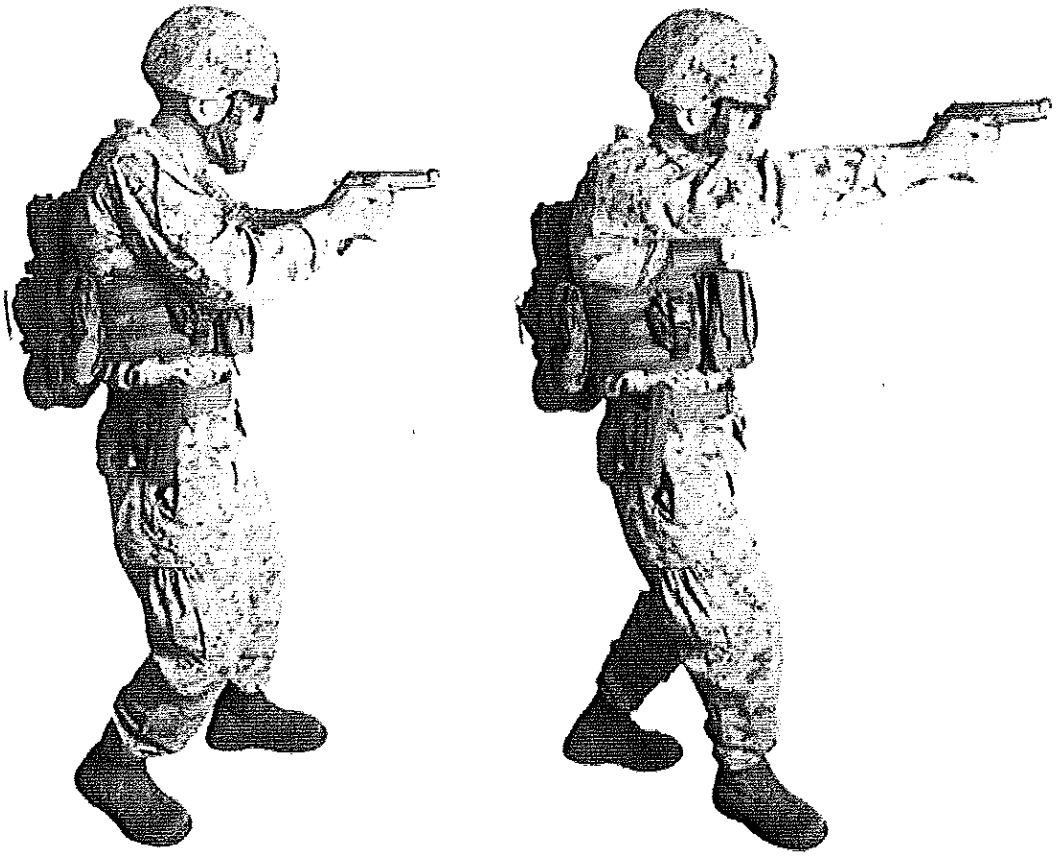


Figure 11-3. Point Shooting Technique Steps Four and Five.

Gain or Close Space with the Threat

Depending on the proximity of the threat and the situation, the Marine must decide whether to create and maintain space during the engagement or close with and control the threat all the way through incapacitation.

Gaining Space

If a Marine decides to create distance from the threat, he steps backward or sideways, while retracting the support hand, keeping it clear from the muzzle. Creating space from the threat will allow for a two-handed grip, full extension of the arms, visual sight alignment, and precision delivery of follow on shots (see fig. 11-4 on page 157).

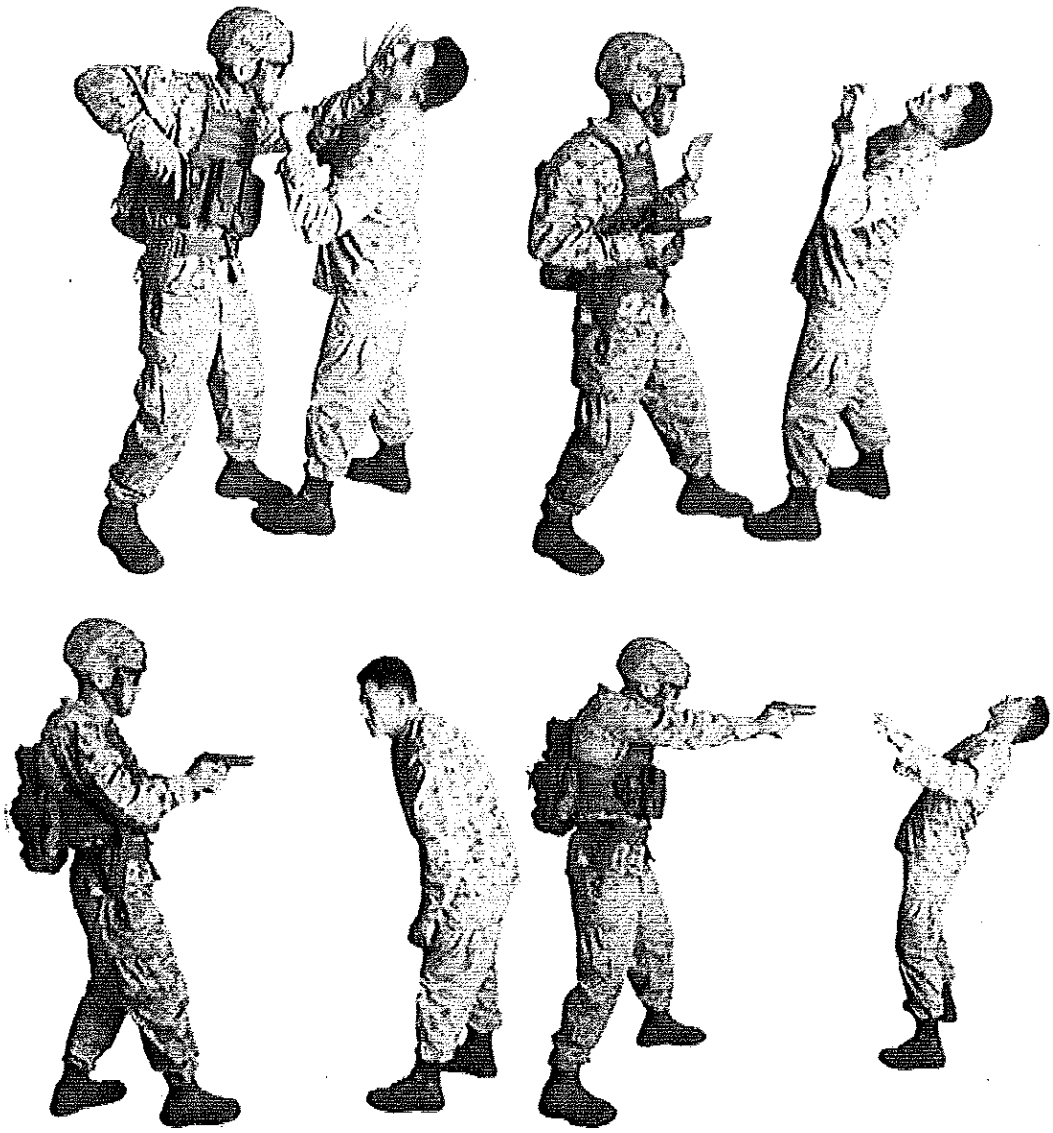


Figure 11-4. Gaining Space.

Closing Space

When a Marine decides to close space, he is advancing on a threat and is already in such close proximity that he intends to physically control the threat's actions while continuing the engagement.

Advancing on the threat. The Marine presses the engagement by closing with and destroying the enemy through fire and simultaneous movement (see fig. 11-5 on page 158).

Figure 11-5. Closing Space, Advancing.

Controlling the threat. The Marine maintains contact or control of the threat with the support hand, ensuring the hand remains clear of the orientation of the weapon's muzzle (see fig. 11-6).

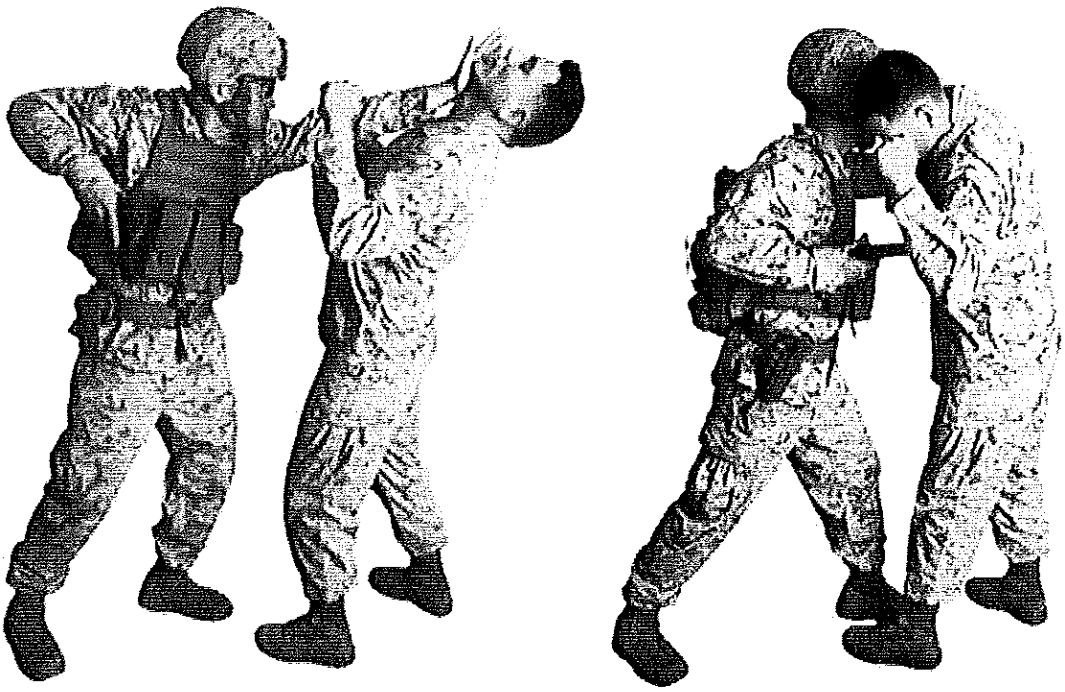


Figure 11-6. Closing Space, Controlling.

Chapter 12
Transition from a Rifle to a Pistol

The decision to transition from a rifle to a pistol is based on the combat situation. The Marine should consider executing one of the two types of transition when the threat is inside 25 meters.

Types of Transitions

Tactical Transition

The combat environment may not lend itself to employing a rifle due to close quarters or the range to suspected threats. The situation may further dictate the need for a tactical transition if the other hand is occupied. In these situations, a Marine may choose to transition to his pistol. This is called a tactical transition because the Marine chose to transition based on the tactical situation. A tactical transition is performed in a lull in the action. As time permits, ensure your weapons are in Condition 1 with as many rounds of ammunition as possible

Speed Transition

A speed transition is performed during engagement as a response to a failure of the rifle, such as if the rifle has a critical stoppage that cannot be readily cleared. A quick and fluid response is required to stay in the fight.

Technique for Transitioning from a Rifle to a Pistol

Follow these steps to transition from a rifle to a pistol:

1. While controlling the rifle with the support hand, lower the muzzle and rotate the rifle out of the way as gear allows (see fig. 12-1 on page 160).
2. At the same time, withdraw the pistol from the holster with the firing hand to begin presentation (see fig. 12-1 on page 160).

Figure 12-1. Transition from a Rifle to a Pistol Steps One and Two.

3. Place the support hand in a position that allows a two-handed firing grip to be established in a minimum amount of movement. At the same time, trap the rifle with the support arm (biceps, forearm, and elbow, depending on gear) to keep it from interfering with pistol presentation (see fig. 12-2 on page 161).
4. Present the pistol and deactivate the safety with the firing thumb. Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining it with the support hand. If you were not able to deactivate the safety, do so with the support thumb. Roll the thumbs forward; the support thumb points forward and the firing thumb rests on top of it (see fig. 12-2 on page 161).

Figure 12-2. Transition from a Rifle to a Pistol Steps Three and Four.

5. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

Appendix A
M45A1 Close Quarters Battle Pistol

Description and Nomenclature

The M45A1 close quarters battle pistol (CQBP) is an air-cooled, magazine-fed, recoil-operated, automatic loading defensive hand weapon. It is fed from a seven-round stainless steel magazine and is semi-automatic, firing one round each time the trigger is pressed. When the last round is fired, the slide automatically locks to the rear. The pistol has a maximum effective range of 50 meters. The M45A1 pistol has a rail on the frame to accommodate attachments and will be carried in a holster. It should be securely connected to the shooter by a pistol lanyard.

Nomenclature

The left side of the pistol has the following features (numbers in list correspond to those in fig. A-1):

- Front sight (1).
- Slide (2).
- Rear sight (3).
- Ambidextrous safety (4).
- Stock grip (5).
- Magazine well (6).
- Magazine release catch (7).
- Slide stop pin (8).

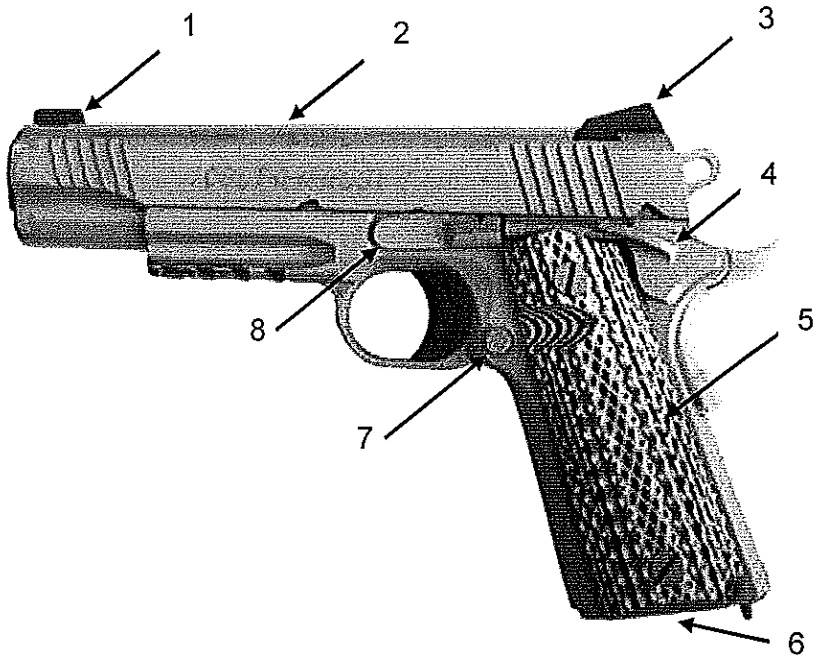


Figure A-1. M45A1 Left Side View.

The right side of the pistol has the following features (numbers in list correspond to those in fig. A-2 on page 163):

- Hammer (9).
- Trigger (10).
- Lanyard loop (11).
- Grip safety (12).

Figure A-2. M45A1 Right Side View.

Major Components

Slide Assembly

The slide assembly (see fig. A-3, item 1 on page 164) houses the barrel, firing pin, and extractor. Lighting for night operations is provided by radioactive tritium gas contained in the front and rear sights.

Receiver Assembly

The receiver assembly (see fig. A-3, item 2 on page 164) with integrated MIL-STD [military standard] 1913 rail houses the trigger, hammer, sear, ejector, disconnector, magazine release/catch, ambidextrous safety, and grip safety. It ejects the empty cartridge case and accepts and locks the magazine assembly into place.

Magazine Assembly

The magazine assembly (see fig. A-3, item 3 on page 164) is held in the receiver assembly by the magazine release/catch. The magazine assembly holds the cartridges and presents the cartridge for chambering by the forward motion of the slide assembly.

Slide Stop Pin

The slide assembly is connected to the receiver assembly through the barrel link by the slide stop pin (see fig. A-3, item 4 on page 164).

Barrel Assembly

The barrel assembly is housed within the slide assembly (see fig. A-3, item 5 on page 164). The barrel assembly holds and fires the cartridge, extracts and ejects the empty cartridge case after firing, and cocks the hammer.

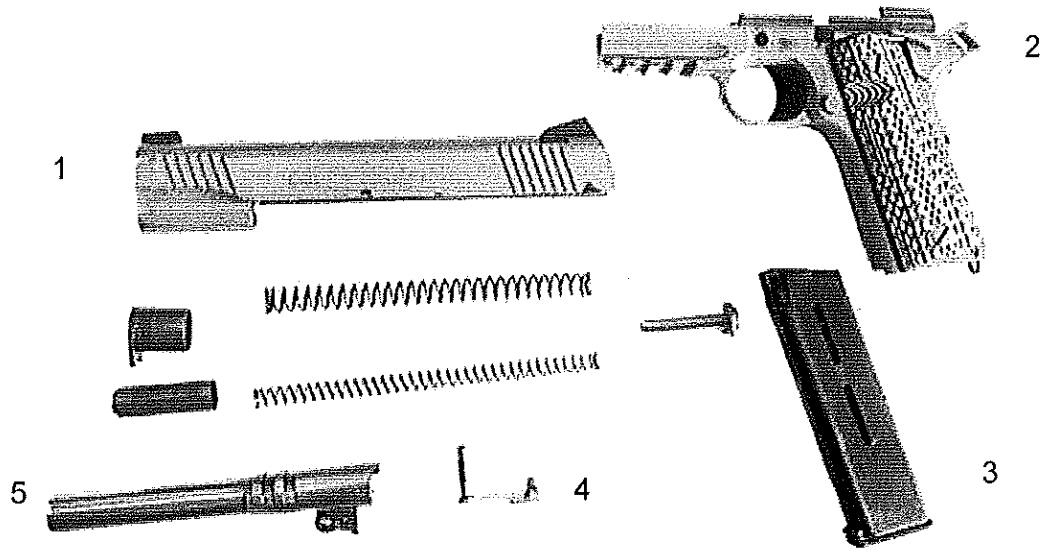


Figure A-3. M45A1 Major Components.

Safety Features

Ambidextrous Safety

The ambidextrous safety (see fig. A-4, item 1) is a lever located on each side of the receiver. Push it up to engage it; the hammer must be cocked first before engaging. Move the ambidextrous safety down to disengage it; the grip safety must also be pressed before the weapon will fire.

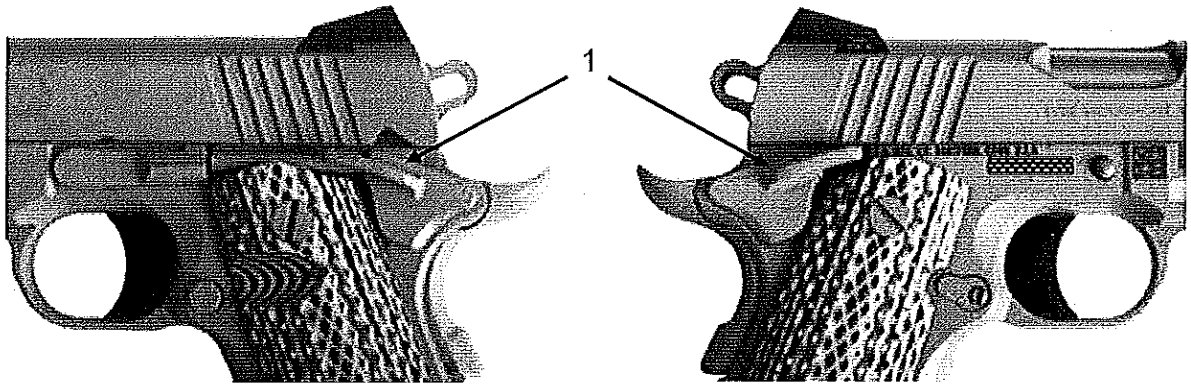


Figure A-4. M45A1 Ambidextrous Safety.

Grip Safety

The grip safety (see fig. A-5, item 1 on page 165) automatically engages any time the operator releases his grip on the weapon's stock grip, helping to prevent negligent discharge of the weapon. The grip safety disengages when the weapon is held in a ready-to-fire grip.

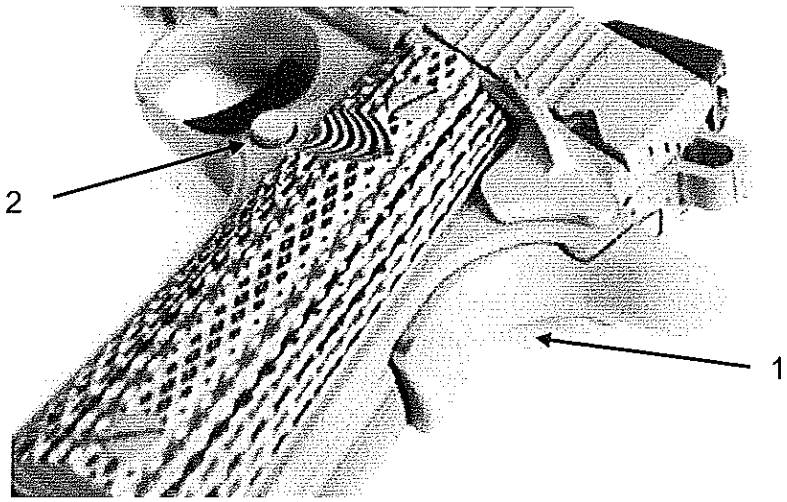


Figure A-5. M45A1 Grip Safety.

Magazine Catch

The magazine catch (see fig. A-5, item 2) is located on the left side of the receiver. Pushing the magazine catch releases it and allows the magazine to drop from, or be removed from, the magazine well.

Functional Capabilities

When the M45A1 CQBP is taken off safe, it can be fired in the single-action mode, which requires the hammer to be cocked to the rear before the trigger is pulled (see fig. A-6). The hammer can be manually cocked or mechanically cocked. The hammer is mechanically cocked after the first shot is fired.

Figure A-6. M45A1 Single-action Mode.

M45A1 Semi-Automatic Pistol Cycle of Operation

The cycle of operation is similar in all semi-automatic pistols. Knowledge of what happens during the cycle of operation will help the operator understand the cause of various stoppages and how to remedy them. The cycle of operation for the M45A1 CQBP is broken down into eight steps: feeding, chambering, locking, firing, unlocking, extracting, ejecting, and cocking.

Note: The cycle of operation can begin at any step.

Feeding

Insert a loaded magazine into the magazine well. Pull the slide assembly to the rear and release (or push down on the slide stop if the slide is already locked to the rear). This leaves the hammer in the cocked position. The slide assembly strips a cartridge from the magazine and feeds it into the chamber as it is forced forward from the pressure of the compressed recoil springs.

Chambering

After the slide assembly strips a cartridge from the magazine, the cartridge is pushed forward, feeding it into the chamber of the barrel. The round moves up the slide face under the extractor.

Locking

As the slide assembly approaches its forward position, it encounters the rear extension of the barrel and forces the barrel forward. The rear of the barrel then swings upward on the barrel link. When the slide and barrel reach their forward position, they are positively locked together by the locking lugs on the barrel and the recesses in the slide. Their joint forward movement is halted by the barrel lug encountering the pin on the slide stop.

Firing

Squeezing the trigger moves the trigger bow rearward and in to initial contact with the flat trigger contact surface on the bottom front of the disconnector while pushing the firing pin block safety rearward on the trigger bar lever. The trigger bar lever then pushes the block safety lever up, which allows the firing pin block safety to disengage. Continued rearward trigger pressure causes the disconnector to exert rearward pressure on the lower front portion of the sear, which simultaneously rotates the sear's hammer engagement surface forward and out of engagement with the full cock notch on the hammer. This action releases the hammer. The released hammer then rotates forward under pressure of the mainspring and strikes the firing pin, which moves forward, strikes the primer cap, ignites the primer, and fires the chambered round.

Unlocking

After the cartridge is fired, pressure exerts a thrust on the face of the slide, driving it and the barrel rearward. The downward swinging movement of the barrel link unlocks the locking lugs from the recesses in the slide assembly. The slide assembly continues to the rear opening of the breech and compresses the recoil springs.

Extracting

Extraction occurs with rearward movement of the slide under firing recoil inertia as the breech begins to open and as the barrel links down. The rim of the fired cartridge case, already engaged by the extractor during feeding/chambering is drawn back by the energy of the recoiling slide, thus breaking fired (expanded) cartridge case/chamber friction. Continued rearward movement of the slide then fully withdraws the fired cartridge case from the chamber.

Ejecting

As the slide continues rearward inertial movement and withdraws the fired cartridge case from the chamber, the extractor holds the case head against the breech face. Continuing rearward

movement of the slide then brings the left side of the cartridge case head into sharp contact with the front portion of the ejector located on the left side of the frame. This action causes the fired case to pivot upward and to the right and ejects the cartridge case from the opening breech.

Cocking

Cocking occurs when the hammer is forced into proper position for firing the next round by further rearward inertial movement of the slide. Specifically, the slide rotates the hammer back, moves the hammer's strut downward, compresses the mainspring (hammer spring), and engages the sear in the hammer's main (full cock) notch. Continuing rearward inertial movement of the slide fully compresses the recoil springs and (given serviceable recoil springs) stores sufficient inertial energy to return the slide forward; strip, feed, and chamber a next round from the magazine; come up and lock the barrel and slide; and place the slide in battery, thus enabling the next firing cycle to begin.

Ammunition

The only ammunition authorized for the M45A1 is the .45 caliber ball (A475) and the .45 caliber match ball (A483) cartridges (see fig. A-7).

Note: Do not open ammunition containers until the ammunition is to be used.

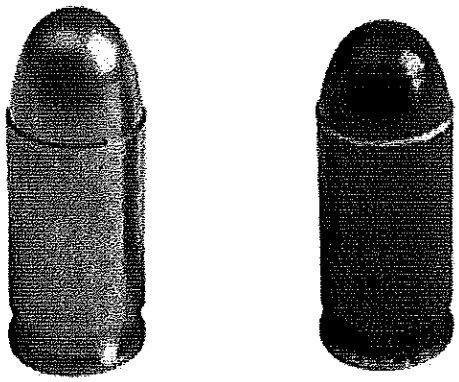


Figure A-7. M45A1 Ammunition.

Ammunition must be cared for just as the pistol is maintained: in a high state of readiness. To care for ammunition:

- Keep ammunition dry and clean. If ammunition gets wet or dirty, wipe it off with a clean dry cloth. Wipe off light corrosion as soon as it is discovered. Never use ammunition that is heavily corroded, dented, or has the projectile pushed in.
- Do not store or expose ammunition to the direct rays of the sun for long periods of time. Excessive pressure may develop when firing the weapon.
- Do not oil or grease ammunition. Dust or other abrasives that collect on greasy ammunition may cause damage to the operating parts of the weapon. Oiled cartridges produce excessive chamber pressure. Do not polish the cartridges.

Preventive Maintenance of the Pistol

Disassembling the Pistol

Before disassembling the pistol, place the weapon in Condition 4: when the magazine is removed, the chamber is empty, and the slide is forward. To disassemble the pistol, perform the

following steps in sequence:

1. Cock the hammer. Engage the ambidextrous safety.
2. With the muzzle pointed upward, rest the pistol on the heel of butt and with the "grip safety" on a table or bench.

WARNING

The recoil spring plug is under spring tension.
Use care to prevent the recoil spring from flying free or causing injury.

3. Press down on the recoil spring plug (see fig. A-8, item 1) while rotating the barrel bushing (see fig. A-8, item 2) clockwise about one-quarter turn. This will free the plug and recoil springs. Keep pressure on plug to prevent it from being ejected by the springs, and then allow the plug and springs to gradually extend out of the slide.

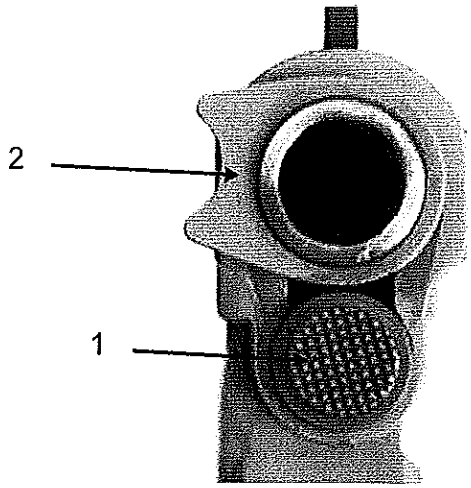


Figure A-8. Release Recoil Spring Plug.

4. Remove the recoil spring plug (see fig. A-9, item 1 on page 169) from recoil springs.

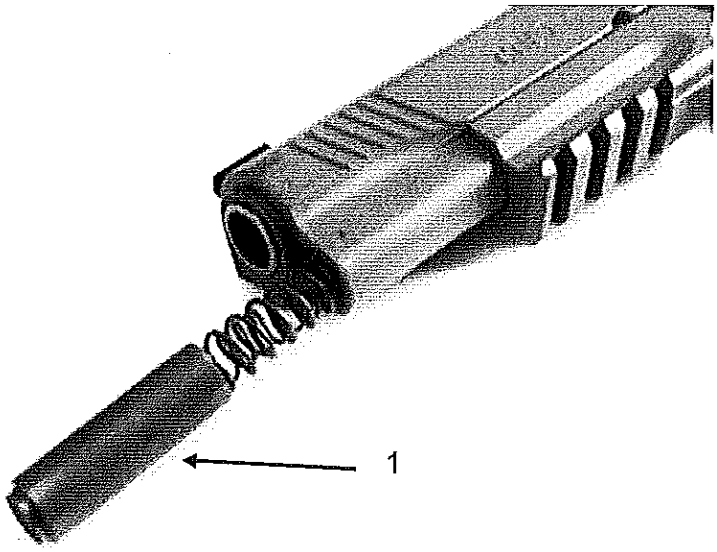


Figure A-9. Remove Recoil Spring Plug.

5. Remove the recoil springs (see fig. A-10, item 1) from the slide assembly (see fig. A-10, item 2). Separate the recoil springs.

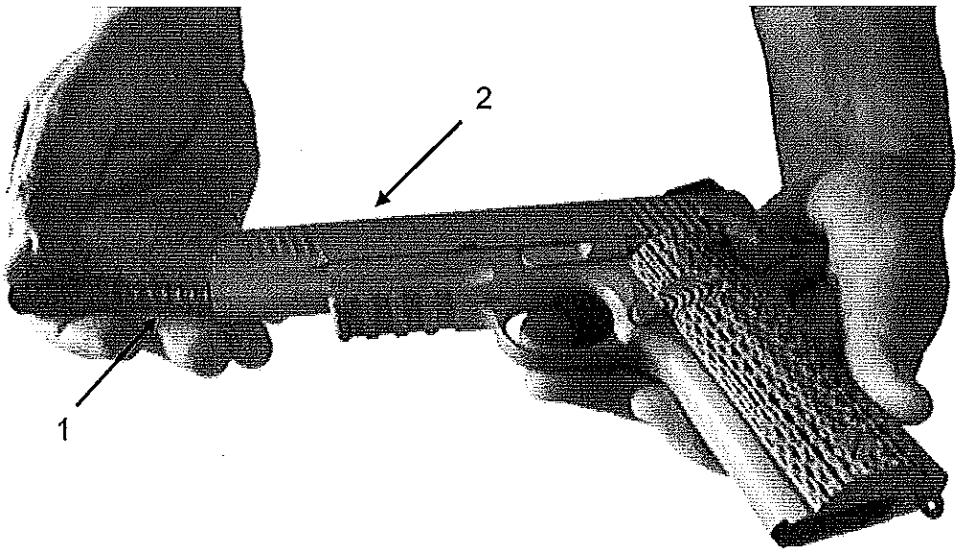


Figure A-10. Remove Recoil Springs.

6. Rotate the barrel bushing (see fig. A-11, item 1 on page 170) counterclockwise until it stops. Pull barrel bushing forward and out.

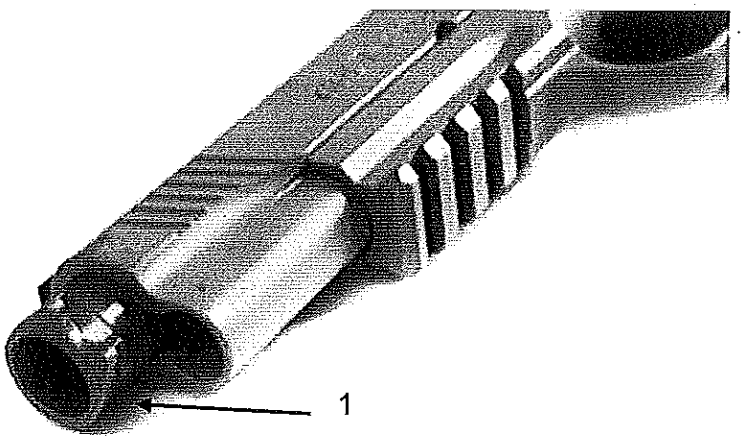


Figure A-11. Remove Barrel Bushing.

7. Pull slide to the rear until the lug on slide stop pin (see fig. A-12, item 1) is opposite the disassembly notch (see fig. A-12, item 2) and push the rounded end of the slide stop pin from right to left and through the receiver to disengage the slide stop from the slide. Lift out the slide stop pin.

Figure A-12. Remove Slide Stop Pin.

8. Push the slide forward of the receiver and separate slide and receiver (see fig. A-13 on page 171).

Figure A-13. Remove Slide from Receiver.

9. Lift the recoil guide rod (see fig. A-14, item 1) and pull rearward out of the slide.

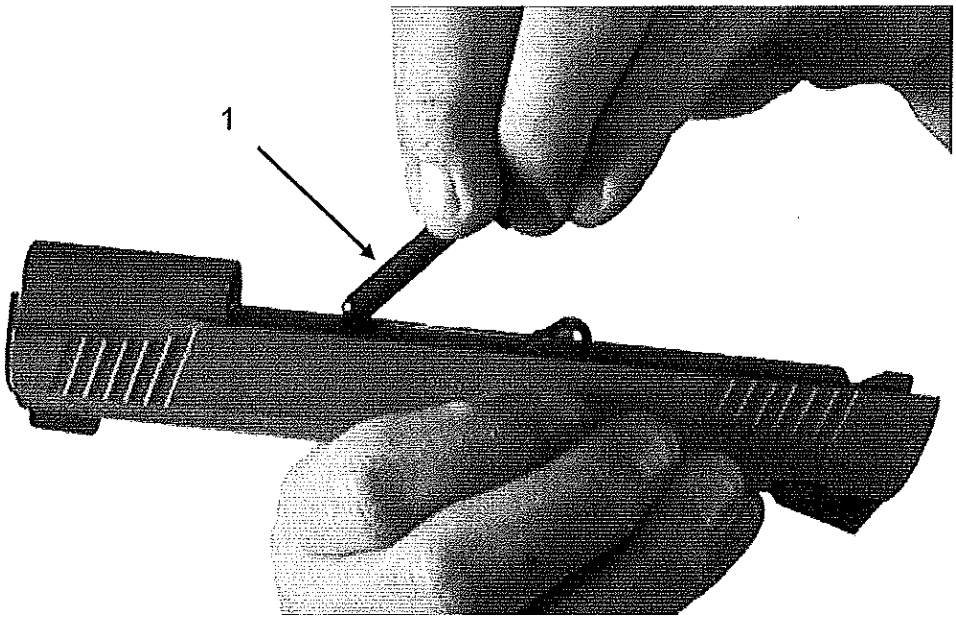


Figure A-14. Remove Recoil Guide Rod.

10. Place the barrel link (see. Fig A-15, item 1 on page 172) in the forward position. Remove the barrel from the slide assembly by sliding it up and over the locking recesses and out of the slide.

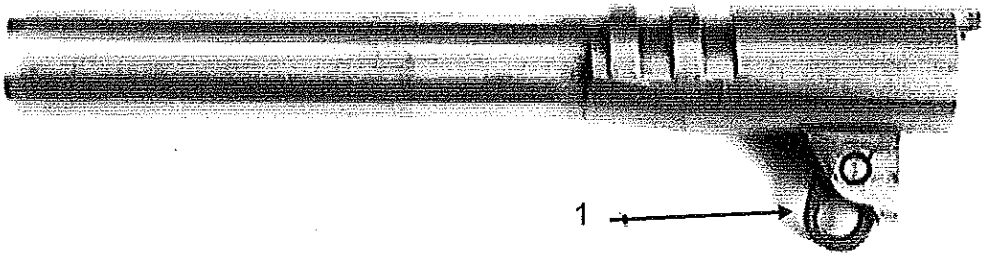


Figure A-15. Barrel Assembly.

Inspecting the Pistol

Slide Assembly

Front and rear sights must be securely attached. The slide face must not have powder residue or fouling. Check the rails for burrs and check the ejection port for cracks.

Barrel Assembly

Check the barrel and bore for cracks and erosion. Check locking lugs for wear. Check that the barrel link pin is securely fastened and the barrel link moves freely.

Recoil Spring Assembly

Check the recoil guide for serviceability. Check recoil springs (inner and outer) for wear, tension, and shape.

Receiver Assembly

Check for bends, chips, and cracks. The hammer, trigger, and ambidextrous safety must move freely. The magazine catch must keep the magazine securely in place. Check the guide rails and accessory rail for excessive wear and burrs.

Magazine Assembly

Check for dents, spring tension, and serviceability.

Cleaning and Lubricating the Pistol

Cleaning is a vital part of organizational preventive maintenance. The weapon should be cleaned as soon as practical after firing and after each time it is exposed to field conditions and moisture because firing produces deposits of primer fouling, powder ashes, carbon, and metal fouling. The pistol must be completely disassembled by a 2111 small arms repairman after exposure to sand and saltwater. This requires second echelon maintenance to ensure the area underneath the mainspring housing and sear spring are clear of sand. For detailed disassembly, cleaning, and reassembly instructions refer to TM 09795C-OR/1, *Operator's Manual for the M45A1 Close Quarters Battle Pistol .45 Caliber,* and TM 09795C-OI/1, *Organizational and Intermediate Maintenance Manual with Repair Parts List for M45A1 Close Quarters Battle Pistol .45 Caliber.*

Slide Assembly

Clean all brass fouling and powder residue from the slide, being especially attentive to fouling around the extractor and the firing pin hole. Use CLP [cleaner, lubricant, protectant] to moderately lubricate the grooves on the slide assembly.

Barrel Assembly

Clean the bore and chamber. Repeat until there is no longer any evidence of fouling in the bore.

Use clean, dry swabs to thoroughly dry the bore and chamber. Apply a light film of CLP to the bore, chamber, and outside surfaces of the other metal parts of the weapon.

Receiver

The hammer, ambidextrous safety, magazine catch, trigger, trigger guard, and rails should all be scrubbed with a cleaning brush and CLP. Wipe the receiver assembly clean with a cloth. Use CLP to moderately lubricate the guide rails of the receiver assembly.

Thoroughly wipe and dry all other components and lightly lubricate all areas including the bore and magazine well.

Reassembling the Pistol

To reassemble the M45A1, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. With the slide upside down and the barrel link forward, assemble the barrel into the slide assembly.
2. Insert the barrel bushing over the muzzle of the barrel and into the slide until it is flush with the face of the slide. Rotate bushing clockwise until it stops.
3. Place the recoil guide rod into the recoil springs. Assemble the recoil springs and recoil guide rod into the slide by pushing the open end of the springs through the slide from the rear. Position the arched portion of the recoil guide rod facing the barrel.
4. Look at the top of the receiver and make sure the plunger lever is down (forward) and tip the receiver forward to keep it down as you run the slide onto the receiver.
5. Look through the slide stop pin hole in the side of the receiver. Move the slide along the receiver until you see the hole in the barrel link line up with the hole in the side of the receiver. Insert the slide stop pin through both the holes until it is almost fully seated. Continue pushing the slide rearward until the disassembly notch lines up with the rear part of the slide stop. Push the slide stop pin up and in against the slide stop plunger until the slide stop pin is fully seated.
6. Move the slide forward and engage the ambidextrous safety.
7. Place the pistol on a table or bench with the muzzle pointing upward.
8. Place the recoil spring plug onto the recoil springs. Press down on the recoil spring plug, compressing the recoil springs into the slide until the plug is fully home, and then rotate the barrel bushing. Align the arched part of the barrel bushing so it straddles the recoil spring plug and locks into place.
9. With the weapon completely assembled, perform a function check (see page 178).

Preventive Maintenance of the Pistol Magazine

Preventive maintenance of the pistol magazine includes its disassembling, inspecting, cleaning, and reassembling.

Disassembling

To disassemble the magazine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Grip the magazine firmly in the support hand with the floorplate up and the thumb resting against the flat end of the floorplate.
2. Release the floorplate by pushing down on the floorplate retainer stud in the center of the floorplate (this is done with a blunt object, such as an ink pen or tool punch). At the same time, slide the floorplate a short distance forward with the thumb.

3. While maintaining magazine spring pressure with the thumb, remove the floorplate from the magazine.
4. Remove the floorplate retainer and magazine spring and follower from the magazine tube (see fig. A-16).

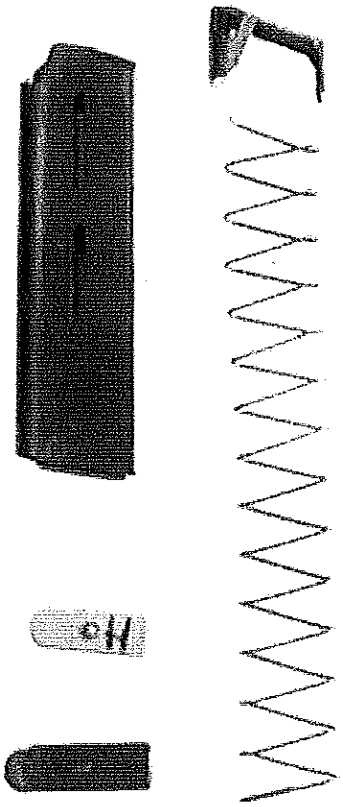


Figure A-16. M45A1 Magazine Disassembled.

Inspecting

Inspect all magazine parts for corrosion. Check the spring and follower for damage. Ensure the feeder lips of the magazine are not bent and are free of cracks and burrs. The magazine tube should not be bent or dirty.

Cleaning

The magazine is a vital part of the weapon system and must be kept clean and free of rust. Clean the magazine tube and follower with CLP and a general purpose brush. With a cloth, wipe the magazine spring, floorplate retainer, and floorplate clean. Apply a light coating of CLP.

Reassembling

To reassemble the magazine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Grip the magazine firmly in the support hand with the floorplate end. Insert the follower into the magazine so the flat end of the follower is against the flat end of the magazine.
2. Ensure the floorplate retainer is attached to the first curve of the bottom coil.
3. Holding the spring upright with the firing hand, insert the spring into the magazine tube so the flat end of the floorplate retainer is against the flat end of the magazine.

Push the magazine spring and floorplate retainer down with the firing hand and hold it in place with the thumb of the support hand. With the firing hand, slide the floorplate over the side walls of the magazine until fully seated. This will be indicated by an audible click.

Function Check

Whenever the weapon is disassembled, a function check should be performed when the weapon is reassembled. The check indicates whether the weapon has been assembled properly. A properly executed function check can also reveal many of the more obvious malfunctions that can occur among the interactive components of the weapon. To perform a function check, perform the ambidextrous safety, grip safety, hammer safety stop, and disconnector tests in sequence.

WARNING

Before starting an inspection or repairs, be sure to clear the weapon. Do not actuate the trigger until the weapon has been cleared. Remove the magazine and inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty. Do not have live ammunition in the vicinity of the work area.

Ambidextrous Safety Test

To perform an ambidextrous safety check, follow these steps in sequence:

1. With the weapon unloaded, cock the hammer and push the ambidextrous safety up to the safe position.
2. Grasp the weapon so that the grip safety is depressed.
3. Apply firm trigger pressure; the hammer should not fall.

Grip Safety Test

To perform the grip safety check, follow these steps in sequence:

1. With the weapon unloaded, cock the hammer and ensure the ambidextrous safety is disengaged to the fire position.
2. Grasp the weapon without depressing the grip safety.
3. Apply firm trigger pressure; the hammer should not fall.

Hammer Safety Stop Test

To perform the hammer safety stop test, follow these steps in sequence:

1. With the weapon unloaded, use your thumb to pull the hammer back to the hammer safety stop notch.
2. Release the hammer and press the trigger. The hammer should fall.
3. Use your thumb to pull the hammer back past the hammer safety stop notch and release prior to fully cocking the hammer. The hammer should stop at the hammer safety stop notch.

Disconnector Test

To perform the disconnector test, follow these steps in sequence:

1. With the weapon unloaded, cock the hammer. Push the slide assembly one-quarter inch to the rear and hold it in that position while pressing the trigger. Let the slide assembly go forward while maintaining pressure on the trigger. The hammer should not fall.

2. Release pressure on the trigger. The hammer should fall.
3. Pull the slide assembly rearward and engage the side stop pin. Press the trigger and release the slide stop assembly simultaneously. The hammer should not fall.

User Serviceability Inspection

Marines are responsible for performing user serviceability inspections on their weapons prior to live fire. The user serviceability inspection ensures the weapon is in an acceptable operating condition. This inspection is not intended to replace the detailed weapon components inspection following disassembly or the limited technical inspection or pre-fire inspection conducted by an armorer. To conduct a user serviceability inspection on the pistol, follow these steps in sequence:

1. Perform a function check of the pistol (see page 178).
2. Ensure the magazine seats into the magazine well when it is inserted and cannot be pulled out.
3. Ensure the slide stays locked to the rear when the slide is pulled rearward with an empty magazine in the weapon.
4. Ensure the magazine falls out freely when the magazine release button is depressed.
5. Repeat steps with additional magazines.
6. With the slide locked to the rear, lubricate the recoil spring guide, top of the barrel just forward of the front sight, and guide rails of the slide assembly lever. With the muzzle pointed down, work the slide several times and release.
7. Visually inspect the external parts of the pistol to ensure there are no cracks or excessive wear.

Maintenance of the Pistol in Extreme Weather Conditions

Combat situations can place Marines in a variety of extreme weather conditions. To ensure the continued operation of the service pistol, it is important to maintain the pistol properly in these conditions.

Arctic Climates

When operating the pistol in extremely cold climates, clean and lubricate the pistol inside at room temperature, if possible:

- Disassemble and inspect the weapon daily. Clean and wipe dry all parts.
- If the weapon is to be cleaned in a warm area, allow it to warm up fully, remove the condensation, and then clean it. Do not lay a hot pistol in snow or on ice.
- Use Lubricant, Arctic Weather oil on the weapon.
- Store the weapon in a cold, protected place, or the metal will sweat and freeze when taken outdoors.
- Check the bore for snow or ice obstructions before firing the first shot.
- Keep the weapon in the holster. Frequently inspect the well for snow and ice, and for operation of the weapon.

Tropical Climates

The following are best practices for operations in very humid climates:

- Disassemble and inspect the weapon daily. Clean and wipe dry all parts. Perspiration from the hands is a contributing factor to rust.
- Moderately lubricate the weapon with CLP.

- Keep the weapon in the holster. Frequently inspect.

Hot, Dry Climates

The following are best practices for operations in hot and dry climates:
- Disassemble and inspect the weapon daily. Clean and wipe dry all parts.
- Lightly lubricate the weapon with CLP.
- Keep the weapon in the holster. Frequently inspect.

Beach, Ocean Areas

The following are best practices for operations in and around sand and salt water:.
- Use the same procedures that are outlined for tropical climates.
- Where sand is a problem, keep the weapon in the holster. Frequently inspect. Follow hot, dry climate procedures.
- If the weapon is exposed to salt water, as the situation permits, rinse it in fresh water and clean it thoroughly.

Immediate and Remedial Action Procedures

These actions consist of the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation through immediate or remedial action. There is no one set of procedures that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the M45A1. Therefore, Marines must take immediate and possibly remedial action any time there is an unscheduled or unanticipated interruption in the cycle of operation.

The Slide is Forward

If the slide is forward, such a stoppage may be remediated quickly by following these steps:
1. Observe the chamber area.
2. Tap. Tap or strike upward on the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is fully seated.
3. Rack. Rapidly pull the slide all the way back. Rotate the weapon to the right, enabling the unfired round to drop out. Observe the condition of the chamber, the receiver, and the next round in the magazine through the open ejection port. Release the slide, allowing it to go forward.
4. Bang. Attempt to fire the weapon again.

Visible Obstruction

Cartridges that are not fully seated to the rear of the magazine may cause an obstruction. Such a stoppage may be remediated quickly by following these steps:
1. Remove the magazine and observe the chamber area.
2. Pull the side to the rear and lock into place.
3. Inspect the chamber and remove any obstructions.
4. Insert another loaded magazine into the weapon and release the slide, allowing it to go forward.
5. Attempt to fire the weapon again.

Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and a lower audible report. The pistol will not cycle. This is sometimes

accompanied by excessive smoke escaping from the chamber area. To remedy this situation, follow these steps:

1. Remove finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
2. Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
3. Attempt to clear the obstruction through the bore with a cleaning rod or other suitable method.

Appendix B
Glock 19

Description and Nomenclature

The Glock 19 is a safe-action, self-loading pistol. It is mechanically locked and recoil operated with an automatic firing pin and trigger safety. The Glock 19 fires a 9mm round from a 15-round magazine. Each round is automatically loaded until the magazine is empty. The slide will remain in the open position and is held by the slide stop lever.

Nomenclature

The left side of the pistol has the following features (numbers in list correspond to those in fig. B-1):

- Front sight (1).
- Slide lock (2).
- Slide stop lever (3).
- Milled grooves (4).
- Rear sight (5).
- Magazine catch (6).
- Trigger (7).
- Trigger safety (8).

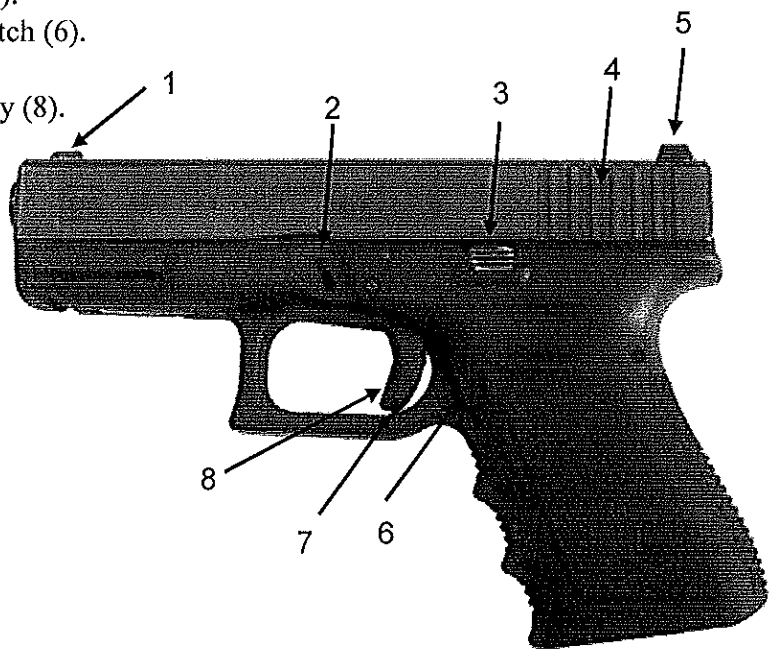


Figure B-1. Glock 19 Left Side View.

The right side of the pistol has the following features (number corresponds to those in fig. B-2 on page 180):

- Ejection port (1).

Figure B-2. Glock 19 Right Side View.

Major Components

Slide Assembly
The slide assembly (see fig. B-3, item 1) houses the firing pin, striker, and extractor.

Barrel Assembly
The barrel assembly (see fig. B-3, item 2) houses the cartridge for firing and directs projectiles.

Recoil Spring Assembly
The recoil spring assembly (see fig. B-3, item 3) absorbs recoil and returns the slide to the forward position.

Receiver Assembly
The receiver assembly (see fig. B-3, item 4) supports all major components, houses action of weapon, and controls the functioning of the weapon.

Magazine Assembly
The magazine assembly (see fig. B-3, item 5) stores and feeds the ammunition.

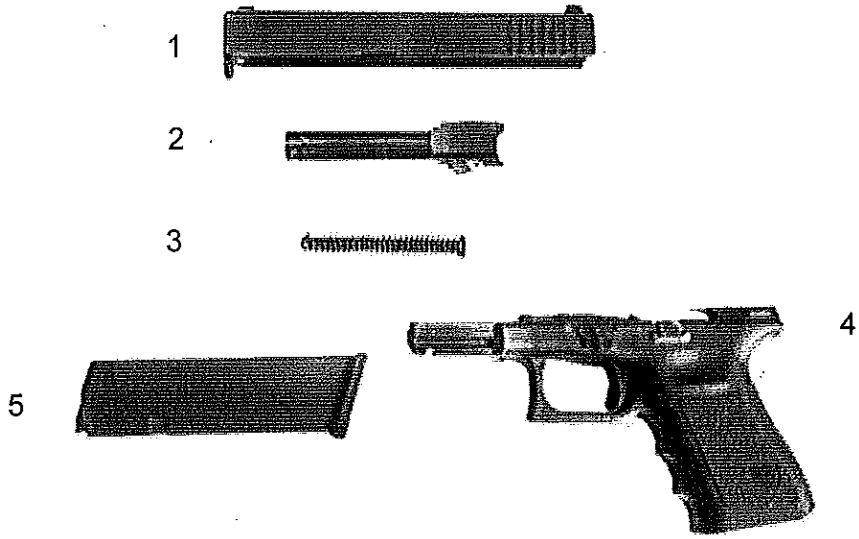


Figure B-3. Glock 19 Major Components.

Safety Features

The Glock 19 does not use a conventional manual safety lever. It is equipped with a fully automatic safety system consisting of three passive, independent, mechanical safety devices that collectively form a Safe Action system. This system does not require the Marine to select between safe and fire modes of operation. Action is never set (or fully cocked) except when the trigger is pulled completely to the rear.

Trigger Safety

The trigger safety is incorporated into the trigger in the form of a lever (see fig. B-4). When in the forward position, it blocks the trigger from moving rearward. To fire the pistol, the trigger safety and the trigger itself must be deliberately pressed at the same time. If the trigger safety is not depressed, the trigger will not move rearward to allow the pistol to fire. The trigger safety is designed to prevent unintentional firing when the pistol is dropped, falls, or is subjected to such forces as inertia or lateral pressures.

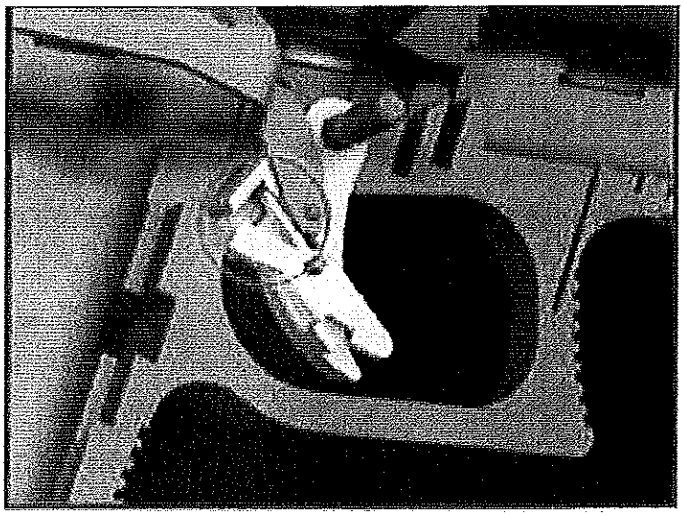


Figure B-4. Glock 19 Trigger Safety Engaged.

Firing Pin Safety

The spring loaded firing pin safety (see fig. B-5 on page 182) projects into the firing pin channel and mechanically blocks the firing pin from moving forward. When the trigger is being moved rearward, a vertical extension of the trigger bar pushes the firing pin safety upward, clearing the firing pin channel. The firing pin safety was designed to avoid unintentional firing due to inertia or should extreme forces cause a separation of slide and receiver.

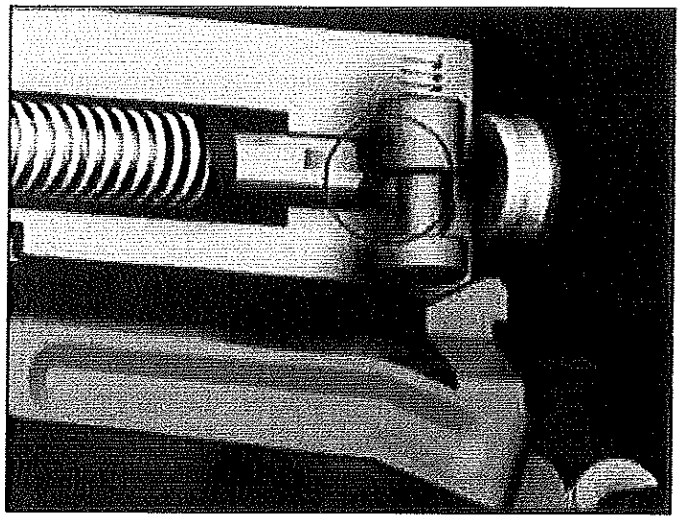


Figure B-5. Glock 19 Firing Pin Safety Engaged.

Drop Safety

The rear part of the trigger bar, which has a cruciform shape, rests with both arms on the drop safety shelf located in the trigger mechanism housing. When the trigger is pressed rearward, the trigger bar begins to move off the safety shelf as the trigger bar is forced down and to the rear (see fig. B-6). The drop safety also prevents any premature disengagement of the trigger bar and the firing pin by not allowing the back of the trigger bar to move down unless the trigger is pressed.

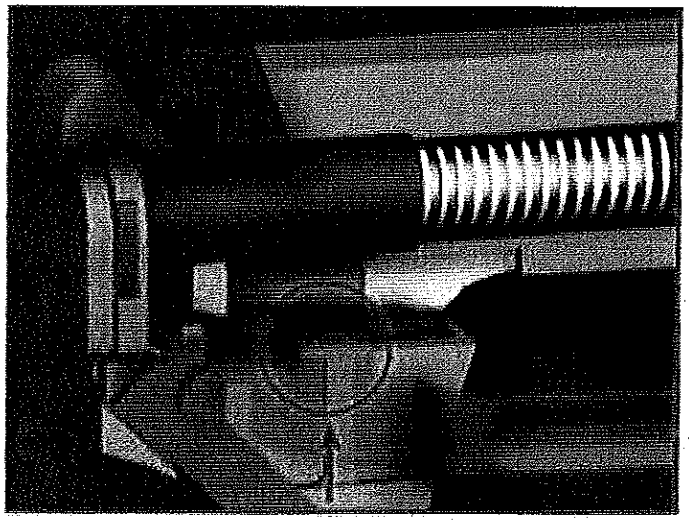


Figure B-6. Glock 19 Drop Safety Engaged.

As the trigger is intentionally moved rearward, the safeties are released one by one until the pistol fires. As the trigger is released forward, the safeties re-engage fully in sequence.

Glock 19 Cycle of Operation

Understanding the cycle of operation will help the operator understand the cause of and remedy for various stoppages. The cycle of operation for the Glock 19 begins after the loaded magazine

has been inserted into the weapon. The cycle of operation is broken down into eight functions: feeding, chambering, locking, firing, unlocking, extracting, ejecting, and cocking.

Note: The cycle of operation begins at any of the following eight steps.

Feeding

When the slide moves sufficiently to the rear, the magazine spring pushes up on the follower and the ammunition in the magazine, placing a live cartridge in line with the chamber. When the slide returns forward, the rear of the trigger bar catches the bottom lug of the firing pin and begins cocking the firing pin.

Chambering

Spring pressure continues to push the slide forward, fully chambering the cartridge. When the slide is still one-half inch away from being fully forward, the rear of the trigger bar catches the bottom lug of the firing pin and begins cocking the firing pin.

Locking

As the slide moves forward for the final quarter inch of travel, the locking block forces the barrel up into the slide so the barrel's hood locks into the slide's ejection port.

Cocking

The trigger safety is automatically moved out of the way when deliberate finger pressure is applied to the front of the trigger, allowing the trigger to rotate. Pressing the trigger to the rear moves the trigger bar forward. Since the rear of the trigger bar is in contact with the firing pin's bottom lug, rear movement of the trigger bar continues to cock the firing pin. As the trigger bar moves rearward, the trigger bar's front vertical extension moves under the firing pin safety, pushing it up under spring pressure and disengaging it. Pressing the trigger farther to the rear moves the trigger bar's drop safety tab out of the trigger mechanism housing's drop safety notch. At the end of the trigger bar's travel, it makes contact with the connector's rear tab, forcing the rear of the trigger bar down. The trigger spring assists in holding the trigger bar to the rear and the connector's rear tab keeps the trigger bar from coming back up.

Firing

When the rear of the trigger bar moves far enough down to disengage from the firing pin's bottom lug, the firing pin is released and forced under spring pressure from the firing pin spring. The firing pin is driven forward, striking the primer of the chambered cartridge and firing the weapon.

Unlocking

Initially, the barrel and slide remain locked as they recoil together. Within a short distance (approximately one-quarter inch), the locking block has forced the barrel's rear downward, titling the barrel enough so the barrel's hood disengages from the slide. The slide and barrel are now unlocked and the slide can continue to recoil to the rear. The connector's tip rides along a ramped surface inside the slide's lower right side. This ramp pushes the connector's tip toward the weapon's centerline, releasing the trigger bar's rear within approximately one-eighth inch of the slide's travel. The trigger spring pulls the trigger bar up into position, ready to engage the firing pin's bottom lug. When the slide has moved approximately one-half inch to the rear, the firing pin's bottom lug has cleared the trigger bar and the trigger is reset.

Extracting

The extractor grips the spent case's rim on the lower right, holding the spent case against the slide's breech face. Once the slide unlocks from the barrel and moves rearward under recoil (while the barrel stays in place), the extractor's grip causes the spent case to be pulled from the chamber, extracting it.

Ejecting

As the slide nears the end of its rearward travel, the ejector is exposed on the breech face's lower left. The ejector strikes the lower left rear of the cartridge case. Combined with the extractor holding the lower right edge, the strike of the ejector causes the cartridge to spin out of the ejection port and to the right of the weapon.

Preventive Maintenance of the Pistol

Disassembling the Pistol

Before disassembling the weapon, it must be cleared to prevent an accidental discharge. The weapon must be pointed in a safe direction at all times. To disassemble the pistol, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, press the trigger to disengage the trigger bar.
2. Grasp weapon so four fingers rest over the top of the slide and the thumb rests on the rear of the receiver. Draw the slide to the rear slightly, enough to release the pressure on the slide lock (about one-eighth inch) (see fig. B-7).

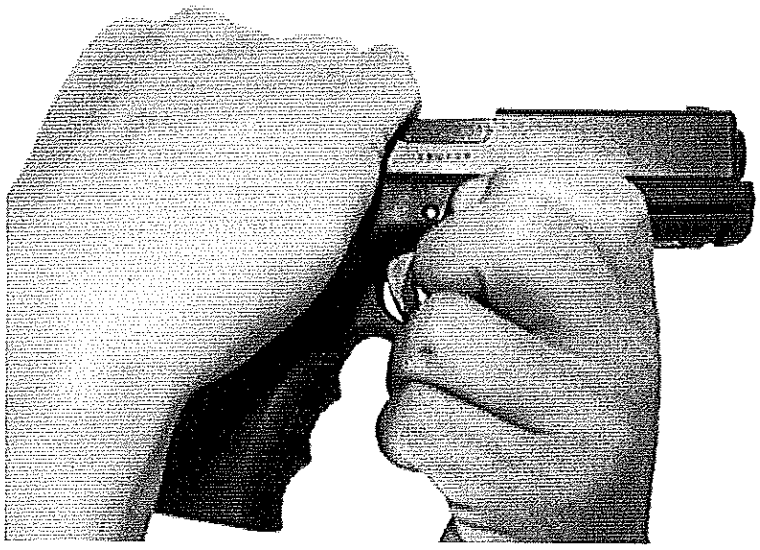


Figure B-7. Release Pressure on the Slide.

3. Pull slide lock down on both sides of receiver simultaneously and allow slide to move forward and off of the receiver (see fig. B-8 on page 185).

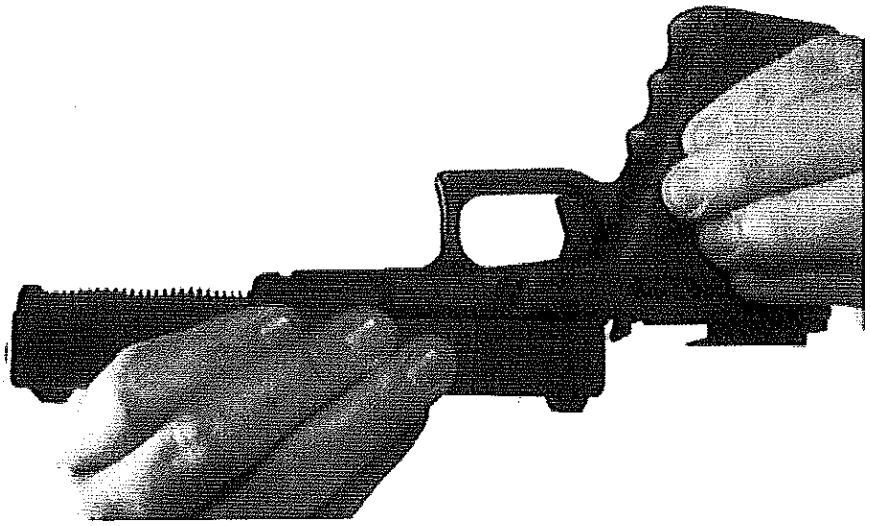


Figure B-8. Remove Slide from Receiver.

WARNING

The recoil spring plug is under spring tension.
Use care to prevent recoil spring from flying free or causing injury.

4. Push the recoil spring assembly slightly forward with the thumb and lift it out of the slide (see fig. B-9).

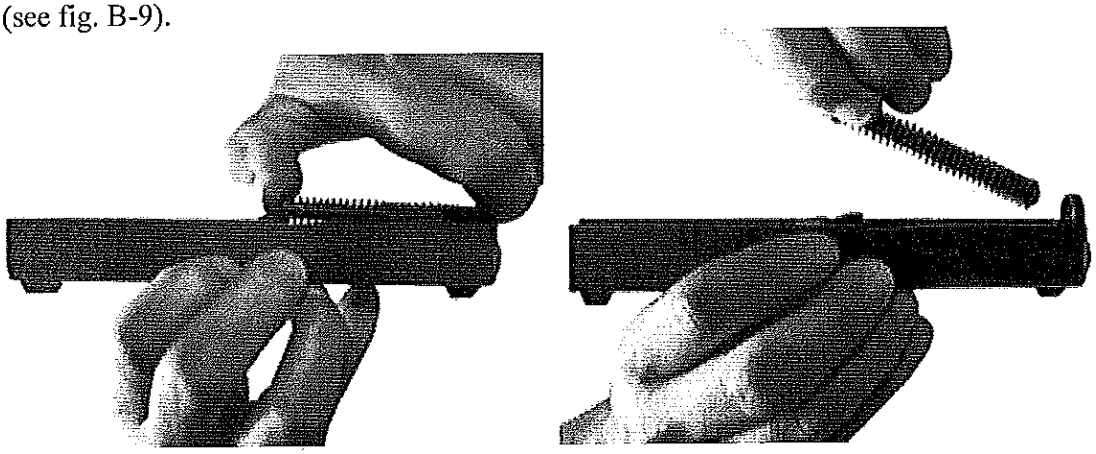


Figure B-9. Remove Recoil Spring Assembly.

5. Lift the barrel up and out of the slide from the chamber end (see fig. B-10 on page 186).

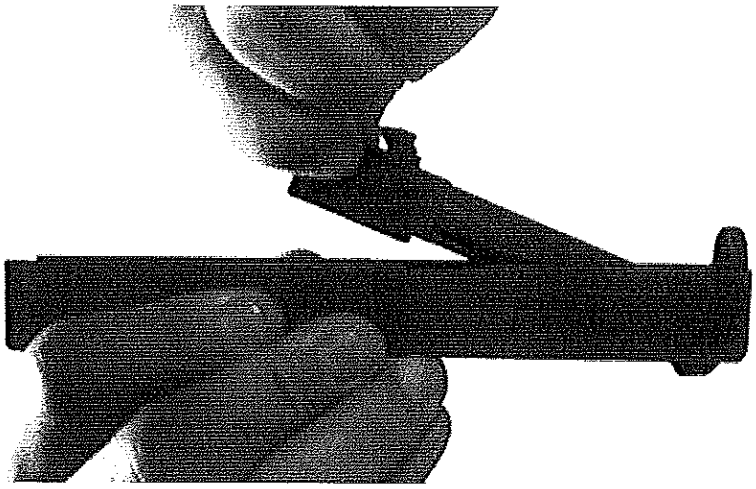


Figure B-10. Remove Barrel.

Inspecting the Pistol

Slide Group
Check for cracks, breaks, or other damage.

Barrel Assembly
Check for cracks and erosion. Check locking lugs for wear.

Recoil Guide Rod Assembly
Check for straightness. Check spring for bends, breaks, and for spring tension.

Receiver Group
Check for bent, broken, or missing parts.

Magazines
Inspect the magazine tube, follower, and base plate for cracks and dents.

Cleaning and Lubricating the Pistol

Cleaning is a vital part of organizational preventive maintenance. The weapon should be cleaned as soon as practical after firing and after each time it is exposed to field conditions and moisture. Cleaning is vital because firing produces deposits of primer fouling, powder ashes, carbon, and metal fouling that may interfere with firing. The Glock 19 is designed to operate properly with minimal lubrication.

Slide
Inspect the slide for any obvious fouling. Holding the slide with the firing pin channel up, clean the breach face and extractor with a brush. Brush down the slide grooves, the ejection port area, and all other surfaces. Lightly lubricate the slide rails.

Barrel
Using a proper size bore brush or cloth patch, push it all the way through from the chamber and out the muzzle end of the barrel. Heavy fouling may require multiple passes. With a small brush, clean the lug areas, feed ramp, and outside surfaces of the barrel. Lightly lubricate the barrel, barrel hood, and barrel lug.

Receiver

Use a brush to clean the rails and brush down all other surfaces as necessary. Lightly lubricate the frame rail lugs or slide rails.

Recoil Spring
Inspect the recoil spring/guide rod assembly for wear and obvious fouling. Using a cloth or brush, clean all surfaces. Move slide back and forth several times to distribute lubricant evenly along slide assembly rails and receiver rail lugs. Remove any excess oil from weapon before firing.

Reassembling the Pistol

To reassemble the Glock 19, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Hold slide with sights facing down. Insert barrel, muzzle end first, into slide.
2. Insert beveled small end of recoil spring assembly into slide guide ring. Insert ringed end of recoil spring assembly into barrel lug's semi-circular cutout. Make sure recoil spring assembly is centered and parallel with barrel.
3. Align slide rails with front frame rail lugs and push slide onto receiver. Push slide assembly back along receiver until it locks into place (past rear of receiver, slide lock will pop up). If there is resistance, inspect slide to see if recoil spring guide rod is seated, centered, and parallel to barrel. With weapon completely assembled, perform a function check (see page 192).

Preventive Maintenance of the Pistol Magazine

Preventive maintenance of the pistol magazine includes its disassembling, inspecting, cleaning, and reassembling.

Disassembling

To disassemble the magazine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Grip the magazine firmly in the support hand with the floorplate up and the thumb resting against the flat end of the floorplate.
2. Release the floorplate by inserting a pin punch as far as possible through the hole in the floorplate. Pull forward on the pinch handle, moving the floorplate forward slightly.
3. Place your thumb over the floorplate to control the compressed magazine spring. Withdraw the pin punch and remove the floorplate, slowly releasing the spring tension.
4. Remove the magazine spring and follower from the magazine tube (see fig. B-11 on page 188).

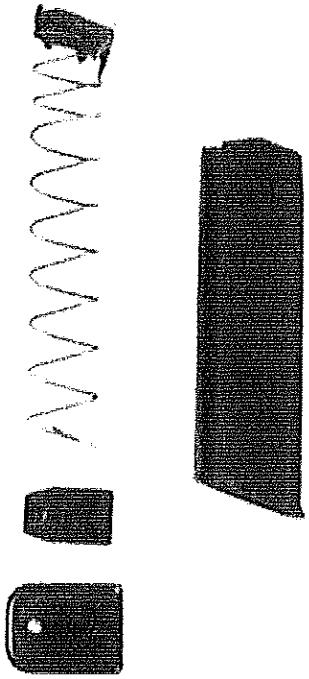


Figure B-11. Glock 19 Magazine Disassembled.

Inspecting

Inspect all magazine parts for corrosion. Check the spring and follower for damage. Ensure the feeder lips of the magazine are not bent and are free of cracks and burrs. The magazine tube should not be bent or dirty.

Cleaning

The magazine is a vital part of the weapon system and must be kept clean and free of rust. Wipe magazine tube and follower with clean rag. Clean the magazine tube and follower with CLP and a soft brush. Wipe inside of magazine tube with a clean rag until dry.

Reassembling

To reassemble the magazine, perform the following steps in sequence:

1. Grip the magazine firmly in the support hand with the floorplate end. Insert the follower into the magazine so the flat end of the follower is against the flat end of the magazine.
2. Ensure the floorplate retainer is attached to the first curve of the bottom coil.
3. Holding the spring upright with the firing hand, insert the spring into the magazine tube so the flat end of the floorplate retainer is against the flat end of the magazine.
   Push the magazine spring and floorplate retainer down with the firing hand and hold it in place with the thumb of the support hand. With the firing hand, slide the floorplate over the side walls of the magazine until fully seated. This will be indicated by an audible click.

Function Check

Whenever the weapon is disassembled, a function check should be performed when the weapon is reassembled. The check indicates whether the weapon has been assembled properly. To perform a function check, follow these steps in sequence:

1. Verify slide lock:
    a. Pull slide down on both sides of slide lock. Slide lock should not move down.
    b. Pull slide slightly rearward (approximately one-eighth inch) and hold slide in that position.
    c. With slide still slightly rearward, pull down on both sides of slide lock. Slide lock should move down.
    d. With slide still slightly rearward, release slide lock. Slide lock should return to the up position.
    e. Release slide.
    f. Point weapon in safe direction and press trigger while pushing slide forward. Slide should not move forward off receiver.
2. Verify trigger safety:
    a. Point weapon in safe direction and, without touching trigger safety, pull rearward on both sides of trigger. Trigger should move only slightly and firing pin should not release.
    b. Point weapon in safe direction and press trigger (and trigger safety). Trigger safety should move rearward and firing pin should release.
3. Verify recoil guide rod assembly:
    a. Point weapon 45- degrees upward in a safe direction.
    b. Press trigger and hold it to the rear.
    c. Pull slide to the rear and hold.
    d. While holding slide, allow slide to move forward slowly. Slide should return to full forward position.
4. Verify magazine spring:
    a. Insert an empty magazine.
    b. Pull slide forcefully to the rear. Slide should lock to the rear.
5. Verify firing pin safety release:
    a. With weapon pointed in a safe direction, press trigger and hold to the rear.
    b. Shake weapon forward and backward. Firing pin should be heard moving freely.

User Serviceability Inspection

Marines are responsible for performing user serviceability inspections on their weapons prior to live fire. The user serviceability inspection ensures the weapon is in an acceptable operating condition. This inspection is not intended to replace the detailed weapon components inspection following disassembly or the limited technical inspection or pre-fire inspection conducted by an armorer. To conduct a user serviceability inspection on the pistol, follow these steps in sequence:

1. Perform a function check of the pistol (see page 191).
2. Ensure the magazine seats into the magazine well when it is inserted and cannot be pulled out.
3. Ensure the slide stays locked to the rear when the slide is pulled rearward with an empty magazine in the weapon.
4. Ensure the magazine falls out freely when the magazine release button is depressed.
5. Repeat steps with additional magazines.
6. Visually inspect the external parts of the pistol to ensure there are no cracks or excessive wear.

Maintenance of the Pistol in Extreme Weather Conditions

Combat situations can place Marines in a variety of extreme weather conditions. To ensure the continued operation of the Glock 19, it is important to maintain the pistol properly in these conditions. Under unusual conditions, clean and lubricate the pistol more often.

Hot, Dusty, and Sandy Areas

In hot, dusty, and/or sandy areas, clean weapons often. Wipe oil from exposed surfaces with a clean cloth and keep weapon covered as much as possible to keep dust and sand out of the parts.

Hot, Wet Climate

In a hot and wet climate, inspect weapons often. Dry, clean, and lubricate lightly as necessary.

Extreme Cold

In temperatures below -10 degrees Fahrenheit, it is important to keep weapons free of moisture. Lubricate using Lubricant, Arctic Weather.

After Exposure to Water

When the weapon has gotten wet, it is important to disassemble, clean, oil, and reassemble it as soon as possible.

Immediate and Remedial Action Procedures

These actions consist of the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation through immediate or remedial action. There is no one set of procedures that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the Glock 19. Therefore, Marines must take immediate and possibly remedial action any time there is an unscheduled or unanticipated interruption in the cycle of operation.

Immediate Action

If the weapon did not fire, release the trigger and apply immediate action:

1. Tap upward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.
2. Vigorously pull the slide fully to the rear and hold it to the rear.
3. Observe for ejected cartridge or case. If nothing is ejected, chamber may have been empty or extractor/ejector failed to function. While holding the slide to the rear, check chamber for obstruction.
4. Release the slide, allowing a new cartridge to be chambered.
    a. If slide remains locked to the rear after releasing, the magazine might be empty. If nothing was ejected and magazine is empty the magazine and/or weapon may have faulty components or was assembled improperly.
    b. If a new cartridge does not fully chamber, perform remedial action.
5. Attempt to fire the weapon. If weapon does not fire, clear it and load a different magazine.
6. Attempt to fire the weapon again. If weapon still does not fire, perform remedial action.

Remedial Action

Perform the following steps when the weapon does not fire after applying immediate action:

1. Clear weapon.
2. Inspect weapon for cause of stoppage and troubleshoot.
3. Correct cause of stoppage, load weapon, and attempt to fire.
4. If weapon fails to fire again, clear weapon, disassemble for closer inspection, clean, and lubricate.

Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

An audible pop occurs when there is an incomplete powder burn or a bullet is stuck in the bore, which could cause serious injury or death. Follow these steps to clear the weapon:

1. Remove finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
2. Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
3. Attempt to clear the obstruction through the bore with a cleaning rod or other suitable method.

References

Marine Corps Publications

Marine Corps Orders (MCOs)

3570.1_	Range Safety
3574.2_	Marine Corps Combat Marksmanship Programs
5500.6_	Arming of Law Enforcement and Security Personnel and the Use of Force

Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP)

3-01A	Rifle Marksmanship

Technical Manuals (TMs)

08993-OR/1	Operator's Manual Pistol, Semi-Automatic, 9mm, M9, M9A1
09795C-OR/1	Operator's Manual for the M45A1 Close Quarters Battle Pistol .45 Caliber
09795C-OI/1	Organizational and Intermediate Maintenance Manual with Repair Parts List for M45A1 Close Quarters Battle Pistol .45 Caliber
9-1005-GLOCK-14&P	Operator, Field and Sustainment Maintenance Manual, Pistol, Glock 19, 9mm
11W3-3-4-22	Armorer's Manual – Pistols, Glock, Safe Action

Navy/Marine Corps Departmental Publications (NAVMCs)

3500.18_	Marine Corps Common Skills Training and Readiness Manual
3500.44_	Infantry Training and Readiness Manual